ADMITS SERIES OF CRIMES—William Ernest Thomas, 22, (left, above), hands to Talladega Police Chief Willis Dean money Thomas said he took from a Talladega driver in a holdup.

Talladega Police Chief Says Thefts Admitted By Suspect

The Birmingham News B'ham, Ala. Wed. 5-11-

13

Photo And Story By
R. E. "Buster" Hogan

TALLADEGA, Ala., May 11—Police Chief Willis Dean recorded two more confessions of crime against William Ernest Thomas here today. Thomas is being held on charges of highway robbery and burglary.

Wed. 5-11-49

Thomas, a 22-year-old Negro, was arrested Tuesday night on suspicion of a holdup Saturday night in which about $40 was taken from Chester Cooper, taxi driver.

Chief Dean said Thomas admitted the holdup and also confessed to the theft of a half-ton of canned goods which, he said, he stole from the Bemiston school lunchroom while working there. He said he was discharged by school authorities on suspicion of stealing from the lunchroom.

In addition to these crimes, Dean said, Thomas last night admitted two burglaries of the lunchroom of a Talladega Negro school.

* * *

CHIEF DEAN SAID Thomas, after his first confessions, led them to his home at 311 Nolan Street and showed them a house literally packed with canned goods, many in gallon cans.

Wed. 5-11-49

He said Thomas also showed him the .32-caliber blue steel pistol with which he said he held up Cooper and gave him a quantity of money he said he took from the taxi driver.

The chief said he found 11 empty billfolds in a trunk in Thomas' home and is investigating to determine whether they may belong to victims of robberies.

Wed. 5-11-49

In addition to the large stock of canned goods at his home, Dean said, Thomas admitted he had been sending canned goods and groceries to a cousin in Ohio.

Man Invades Elderly Woman's Bedroom; Flees Rifle Bullets

Birmingham, Ala. News

Wed. 8-31-49

BESSEMER, Ala., Aug. 31—A Negro man who invaded a white woman's bedroom early today was arrested, Bessemer police said, after escaping rifle bullets fired by the woman's son.

13 Ala

Mrs. M. D. Maxwell, 70, of Montevallo, awoke at 3 a.m. to find a man sitting on her bed.

Mrs. Maxwell is visiting her son, J. C. Maxwell, on Route 7.

She attempted to talk to the man, thinking him to be her son. He did not reply.

* * *

MR. MAXWELL told officers he heard the conversation and went into the bedroom to investigate.

He saw the Negro, later identified as Derry Wilson, 24, on the edge of the bed.

Officers said that as Maxwell flipped the light switch, the Negro jumped up and ran from the room.

He left the house at such a speed that he tore the hinges off a screen door. Mr. Maxwell got his double-barreled rifle and fired two shots at the Negro as he streaked through the darkness.

Both shots missed.

Maxwell called police. Lt. J. F. Mims and Officer Lawton Grimes investigated. Mims said he and Grimes found a bundle on the porch containing a pair of trousers with Wilson's name on them.

The police contacted his parents and they identified the trousers as his. While Grimes was talking to the parents Mims waited outside. Wilson returned and Mims arrested him.

* * *

POLICE SAID he was taken to the Maxwell home where he was identified by Mr. Maxwell and his mother as the man in the house.

Police said Wilson had asked for directions to Bessemer at the Sparks residence next door, prior to entering the Maxwell home.

He is being held on a charge of burglary in Bessemer City Jail.

Negro Letter Carrier Admits Removing $14 In Cash From Envelope

A 32-year-old Negro letter carrier was arrested for stealing money from the U. S. mails here yesterday.

Advertiser

John C. Simon confessed to stealing about $14 in cash from two envelopes, when arraigned before U. C. Commissioner Ralph Hughes.

Tue. 10-11-49

Two postal inspectors from Chattanooga broke the case only a few hours after arriving in Montgomery yesterday.

Montgomery, Ala.

The inspectors, A. B. Dugle and J. R. Sims, both refused to divulge the speedy method they used to apprehend Simon. They declared it would hinder future investigations.

13 Ala

The letter carrier's route was in the downtown section along Dexter Avenue, Monroe and Perry Streets. He has worked for the postoffice department since 1945.

Simon's trial will be held before Federal Judge C. B. Kennamer in U. S. District Court this morning.

He was released overnight by Commissioner Hughes on $500 bail.

Simon gave his address as 807 1-2 High Street, and said he owned a small beer tavern adjacent to his home.

He is a graduate of the high school at Alabama State College for Negroes, a veteran, married, and the father of a five-year-old son.

"I got a little hard up and needed some money," he said at the arraignment, "but I've learned my lesson."

Negro Woman Placed On 5-Year Probation

Advertiser

Federal District Judge C. B. Kennamer placed Edwena L. Neal, Tuskegee Negro, on five years probation after she pleaded guilty here yesterday to stealing about $190 from seven persons.

Sat. 10-22-49

13 Ala

A native of Bessemer and employed by the U. S. government, the woman returned all the money involved.

Montgomery, Ala.

Three Men Accused In Mobile Flogging

The News Birmingham, Ala.

MOBILE, Ala., June 30—(AP)—Three men were accused today of the flogging of a 31-year-old Mobile cabinet maker.

Astor W. Bodden testified yesterday in Recorders Court that the men hit him several times with a heavy belt. He said one of the men held a pistol on him. The alleged flogging took place in Bodden's shop.

Thu. 6-30-49

13

Huge whelps on his face and body were displayed by Bodden at the hearing.

Assault and battery charges have been filed by State Solicitor Carl M. Booth against John H. Nettles, Sr., 48, and his two sons, John, Jr., 23, and Joe Nettles, 18.

Ala

Booth said at the hearing that "while the flogging was not of the hooded type, it was just as serious. Conduct of this type will not be tolerated in this county."

The alleged attack resulted from a family argument, Bodden said. Bodden's wife is a sister of the wife of John Nettles, Jr.

Condition Critical—

Police Report Negro Shot Entering Home

A Negro was shot early Saturday, police reported, while trying to enter an Ensley home. He is in critical condition at T. C. I. Hospital.

The victim is Henry Wood, 319 Fifth Street, North.

News

Wood was shot by R. H. East, 2204 Ensley Avenue, police said.

13 Ala

Mrs. East said she woke up about 3 a.m. to feed one of her children. She heard someone trying to break into the basement.

A short time later she said she heard someone trying to get in a first floor window. Her husband got his gun.

Sat. 10-1-49

Mrs. East said her husband could see the form of a person outside the window. He started to fire through the screen but the window fell, knocking his gun down.

B'ham, Ala.

As the Negro was turning to run, East fired, wounding the Negro in the arm and chest.

Police said Wood is an employe of T. C. I., and had a wrapped lunch in his coat pocket when taken to the hospital.

Two Negroes Killed In Traffic Accidents

13 Ala

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Oct. 27—(AP)—Two persons died here today of traffic injuries.

Dotsie Lee Madry, 29, Negro, Sayreton, was injured fatally early today in an automobile-train collision on the Northside. Three others in the car were hurt.

Advertiser

Elliott Page, 15, Negro, died of injuries suffered yesterday when a car in which he was riding plunged off the highway and struck a utility pole.

Thu. 10-27-49

Montgomery, Ala.

Mother Who Buried Baby Alive Is Freed

Montgomery, Ala., Nov. 28 (AP)—An unwed Negro mother who buried her newborn baby alive was acquitted of a murder charge today.

13 Ala

Evening

Twenty-year-old Ida Roberts was found innocent by a Circuit Court jury that deliberated only 15 minutes.

Mon. 11-28-49

The baby girl lived in the earthen tomb 15 hours before a neighbor found her June [illegible]. She died two days later in a hospital.

Negroes Rob Engineer Return Empty Wallet

Tue. 11-15-49

Louis J. Sutton, an employe of the Seaboard Air Line railroad. told police that two Negro men returned his empty wallet to him last night after they had robbed him as he walked to work.

13 Ala

Sutton said he was walking down a railroad track on Clisby Park Street when a Negro came up to him, grabbed him around the waist and threw him down a four-foot embankment. A second man held him to the ground and took $17 from his wallet, Sutton added.

Montgomery

The railroad employe reported that the men returned his empty wallet when he asked them not to take it as it contained all of his personal papers.

Negro Accused Of Looting 4 Or More Autos

[illegible]

[illegible] 12 [illegible]

Delivery Boy Trapped By One Of Victims; Some Items Unclaimed

13 ala

With the arrest of a drug store delivery boy, police believe they have solved the mysterious disappearance of hundreds of dollars worth of men's clothing and other articles from six or eight local cars in the last month.

Under arrest and being held under a $300 bond on four charges of burglary and grand larceny for action of the grand jury is an 18-year-old Negro, Ogary Tilmon, 317 Yougene Street.

Police said he has been employed for several months as a delivery boy for a local drug store.

Articles found in his possession that have not been claimed are a raincoat, three pairs of trousers, a tweed overcoat, a blut suit with an extra pair of trousers and a Zenith radio.

Already claimed have been two pairs of trousers, one navy peacoat, two one-half gallon cans of honey and one coat.

Sgt. Joe Landers said that the Negro's mode of operation was unique in that he would park his bicycle near a car when he made a delivery. As soon as he had delivered his packages, Landers alleged he would quickly remove any article within easy reach inside the car.

Officers F. N. Day and J. N. Phillips arrested him after one of his victims, G. F. Roughton, of 528 Rigsby Street, had laid a trap.

Thursday night a pair of pants was stolen from Roughton's car while it was parked in front of 143 Caroline Street. Friday night he again parked his car there, hung a coat up for bait and hid himself inside the car.

Within a few minutes he saw a hand reaching inside the car to get the coat. Roughton made a grab for the person but missed him.

A description of the Negro was dispatched over the police radio and Officers Day and Phillips arrested Tilmon several hours later in the vicinity of Five Points.

Detectives C. J. May and W. L. King recovered the stolen articles from his home.

Warrants charging him with burglary and grand larceny were signed by Howard Harris, 207 Dunn Drive, Sam Hawkins, 722 Clayton Street, W. L. Whitman, 68 Hannon Street and Roughton.

Negroes Crowd Prisons

13 ala

Courier

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—The Courier was informed last week that charges of an extensive fee system racket which has led to the reckless arrest and conviction of numerous Negroes and poor whites, prompted Gov. James E. Folsom to name a committee to investigate causes for Alabama's heavy prison population.

Dat. 12-31-49

The Governor appointed the committee Dec. 17. Reports that Negroes have been the chief victims of a scheme to fatten the pay of officers and others who share in the spoils of the fee system are said to be in Folsom's files.

Mr. Folsom was said to have expressed a belief that poor whites have also been victimized under the suspected racket, but to a lesser degre than Negroes.

Pittsburgh Pa.

ABUSE SCORED

Evidence that officers in a number of counties where the fee system exists have abused the authority of arrest and conviction was said to have been made available to the Governor.

In commenting on the appointment of his committee to probe the situation, Folsom said, "Information from certain sister states shows Alabama prison population is double theirs on a percentage basis.

"The people of Alabama and their Governor want to know why this is true."

Previously, the state's chief executive disclosed that Negroes make up about 65 per cent of Alabama's prison population, revealed at 5,087 inmates.

He said that Tennessee with 100,000 more population has only 2,812 prisoners.

WHITES ALSO VICTIMS

Folsom said he was cognizant the fact that the Negro's econo[illegible] and social plight would be fact[illegible] in considering the large numbers incarcerated, but added that he firmly believed Alabama's fee system accounted for half of the prisoners in state prisons.

The Governor declared, "There are some sections of the state where a Negro doesn't have a chance of getting fair and impartial justice on an equal footing with the white man.

"This fee system and the poor treatment of Negroes at the bar of justice, are tools which are used to keep poor whites and the Negro subservient and submissive."

Five members of the committee were appointed two weeks ago. The two additional selectees for the investigation will be announced later. To date no Negroes have been named to the bodv.

B'ham News
B'ham, Ala.
5-10-49
13
Arson

SCOUT SAVES FAMILY—Ernest Patterson, center, his father, Willie Patterson, left, and Deputy State Fire Marshal B. F. Craven are shown (above) examining the remains of a burned mattress after the Patterson family narrowly escaped death Sunday when fire swept through their Sylacauga home. (Photo by Batson.)

Arson Suspected

B'ham News

BY W. G. (BILL) IRBY
News Special Correspondent

SYLACAUGA, Ala., May 10—Police and state fire officers today were investigating causes of a fire early Sunday at a Sylacauga residence.

B'ham, Ala

Quick thinking on the part of Ernest Patterson, 13-year-old Boy Scout, was credited with possibly saving the lives of his family and preventing greater damage to the Patterson home, Sylacauga, Route 3.

Ernest awakened about 3 a. m. Sunday when flames had eaten through the floor and onto an empty bed and the shades and curtains.

Tues. 5-10-49

Calling to his family, Ernest quickly tore the shade and curtains down. Ernest's father, Willie Patterson, his mother and a younger brother, Wilbert, brought water from a nearby wall.

5-10-49

The water was thrown onto flaming sills under the house until the blaze was extinguished.

An investigation by City Policemen John Henry Jones and Aubrey Hobbs disclosed tracks leading to and from the house and a .32 automatic pistol lying on the ground.

Deputy State Fire Marshal B. F. Craven and Sheriff E. O. Howell joined the investigation. Craven said pieces of burlap sack and kindling were found at the side of the house. The odor of gasoline or kerosene was detected.

Damage to the house was about $300. Willie Patterson owns his home, a farm, and runs a small store near his residence. His children attend school at the Sycamore School.

13 1949 D. C.

First In Crime

The Washington Post
Washington, D.C.
Wed. 3-16-49

13

No Washingtonian can take any pride in this city's showing in the FBI's compilation of uniform crime statistics. Not only did Washington lead all cities of its population class in such items as major and minor larcenies during 1948; it also recorded more aggravated assaults—assaults with a weapon—than any other city, regardless of size. Moreover, the District ranked high in murders, burglaries and robberies. These are sobering considerations for the Capital of the United States.

The FBI statistics do not necessarily mean that the Metropolitan Police Department is not putting forth vigorous efforts. It is encouraging, for example, to note Superintendent Barrett's assurance that Washington shows up favorably in the number of serious crimes solved. Nevertheless, it is impossible to accept Major Barrett's explanation that the great number of crimes may be attributed largely to Washington's new and more accurate reporting system. There is no reason to believe that other cities are withholding crime reports. Nor does the 69 per cent increase in aggravated assaults here reflect the national crime rate, which showed only a negligible rise last year.

Wed. 3-16-49

There are, to be sure, certain mitigating factors in the Washington crime picture. Because of its position as the National Capital Washington is a cosmopolitan city with a large number of transients. But Washington also is a dispersed city, with relatively little congestion, high average income and educational levels. Unless the conclusion is to be drawn that Washingtonians are by nature a lawless breed, something is wrong with law enforcement.

One neglected item, we suspect, is the question of Negro crimes against Negroes. If such crimes do not receive proper attention, they not only terrorize large numbers of law-abiding Negro citizens but they also encourage Negro crimes against whites. Another factor may be the manner in which such crime categories as aggravated assaults are handled. The number of assaults suggests that they ought to receive extra police effort, perhaps through a special assault squad. Finally, of course, there is the problem of too few policemen on the streets—a matter on which Major Barrett has taken a praiseworthy stand. Some 175 vacancies now exist, largely because of low pay. A solution to this problem must await a more sympathetic attitude toward District finances by members of Congress who are menaced no less than other residents by the deplorable incidence of crime in Washington.

The Washington Post
Washington, D.C.
Wed. 3-16-49

Penologists At Odds on Crime Rate Of Negroes

Washington Post
Washington DC
Mon. 4-25-49

13

U. S. Expert Blames Race Frustration; Due to Poverty, Says Corrections Head

Two penologists yesterday offered conflicting theories to explain the Negro crime rate in the District.

D.C.

Henry Coe Lanpher, Federal Bureau of Prisons statistician, said that Negroes committed a disproportionate amount of crime because of the frustration they felt about their unequal social status.

Donald Clemmer, director of the District Department of Correction, denied this and stressed poverty as the motivating force behind Negro crime.

The discussion occurred yesterday afternoon at a meeting of the Anti-Crime Committee, an organization which aims to reduce the District Negro crime rate. The meeting was at the 12th st. YMCA, 1816 12th st., nw.

Lanpher's Explanation

Lanpher told the committee:

1. Seventy-three per cent of those arrested in Washington were Negroes.

2. Twenty-five per cent of those arrested nationally were Negroes. Of all persons arested for assault, 46 per cent were Negroes; of those arrested for homicidal charges, 46 per cent were Negroes; of those arrested for robbery, 38 per cent were Negroes.

3. Twenty-three per cent of Federal prisoners were Negroes, against an estimated Negro population of 10 per cent.

4. Thirty-five per cent of State prisoners were Negroes.

5. Only one per thousand Negro prisoners escaped; eight per thousand white prisoners escaped.

Lack of Equal Opportunity

The high rate of Negro crime was caused by the frustration rightly felt by the Negro, Lanpher said. This frustration was caused by the Negro's realization that he lacked equal opportunity, Lanpher said.

Mon. 4-25-49

Clemmer said that frustration was the psychiatrist's explanation for the high Negro crime rate, and he expressed amazement that Lanpher could accept the world of the psychiatrists, who, he said, had accomplished little in the field of penology.

More than 80 per cent of all crime involved stealing in one form or another, Clemmer said. Stealing resulted from the predatory American attitude of "get, get, get," he added.

"The Negro has less, but wants as much as the white person," Clemmer said. "And thus poverty leads the Negro to commit crime."

Few Are Alcoholics

Few Negroes are alcoholics, he added, and alcoholism is traditionally the disease of the frustrated man.

Lanpher said that laws which would reduce Negro frustration would reduce Negro crime. Such laws, he said, would provide better housing and education, a fair employment practice law, and equal civil rights.

Clemmer urged that such laws could not possibly be enacted at this time, and suggested that specially conducted tours of District penal institutions might help reduce crime.

He described the "predatory American attitude" as "one of the worst features of capitalism."

Dr. E. B. Henderson, chairman of the Anti-Crime Committee, told the audience that crime was not racial in character and that there was no reason why Negroes should commit more than their share of crime.

He urged schools and ministers to educate to reduce juvenile delinquency and vandalism. Crime starts with youth, he said, and society has more control over the young during school age than at any other time.

Man, 55, Freed In Incest Case

13 D.C.

Post

A 55-year-old mechanic who served 16 months in prison on an incest charge won his acquittal and freedom yesterday in a retrial in District Court.

He is Bernard L. Bottomley, who was accused of having sexual relations with his 31-year-old daughter, Alna, described to the court as a "middle-grade imbecile" with the intelligence of a child between 4 and 7 years of age.

Defense Attorney William A. Gallagher told the jury that the prosecution was a "vindictive plan" of Bottomley's wife, Mamie, to get rid of her husband to obtain his property.

Thurs. 11-3-49
Washington

The jury deliberated more than three hours before returning the verdict of innocent to Judge Matthew F. McGuire.

Bottomley was arrested in 1947 on the incest charge, tried and sentenced to serve from 4 to 12 years for the offense.

Sadist Attacks, Slays Boy, 8

Afro-American

Mutilated Body Found in Rock Creek Park

Sat. 10-22-49

13 D.C.

WASHINGTON

Washington police were still baffled, Monday, as every available officer continued a city-wide search for the sex fiend who brutally attacked an 8-year-old boy in Rock Creek Park, this past week end.

The lad's slashed and battered nude body was found face-down in the water of Rock Creek on Sunday afternoon. The spot where the body was found was believed by police to be approximately 125 feet from where the murderer, undoubtedly a sadist and pervert ravished his victim.

Police have recorded Harrison McKinley Walker's death as one of the most atrocious crimes in the annals of the Metropolitan Police Department.

Baltimore

Body Stabbed 17 Times

Dr. Richard M. Rosenberg, deputy coroner, said an autopsy showed the boy had been stabbed 17 times, on the top of the head, through both eyes, in the cheek, in the throat, on the right side and in the abdomen.

His liver had been punctured and his skull was fractured four times, Dr. Rosenberg added. He said the wounds indicated that a broken bottle or a jagged knife had been used.

Pieces of broken bottles were found by detectives scattered near the scene of the crime. The boy's arms were torn and wrenched and he had been sexually attacked. Dr. Rosenberg said.

Disappeared Friday Morning

When the autopsy was performed at the District Morgue, Sunday, it revealed that Harrison had been dead for 12 to 36 hours.

Harrison's mother, Mrs. Marie Walker, a widow, of 2454 Snow's Ct., N.W., told police that he disappeared Friday morning at recess time from the Briggs-Montgomery School, 27th and K Sts., N.W., and had not been seen since. She reported her son missing, Sunday morning.

According to Mrs. Walker, a widow with seven children ranging from 7 months to 12 years, Harrison had gone off for a couple of days once before. She said she began to search for him on Saturday night and asked the Third Precinct police for help on Sunday.

3 Police Squads Busy

She told police that the last time Harrison went off, he came back after two days with a boy he called "Tony." She said her son told her that he had been at Tony's home in Rosslyn.

With only this slim lead in the case, police set out on an intensive search of the city for the murderer.

Inspector Robert Bryant, chief of detectives, came to headquarters to take personal charge of the search. Sex squad detectives were called in; and Park police assigned extra men to hunt for the slayer.

Traced Through Saturday

In one of the city's biggest manhunts, police have traced Harrison's actions until late Saturday, when he was known to be near the place where his body was found about 125 yards south of Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.

Police have notified all laundries and dry-cleaning establishments to report any men's blood-stained clothing brought in for cleaning.

Det. Lt. Richard Felber said the boy and a 6-year-old companion spent Friday and Saturday together. They went to a movie on Saturday afternoon and after the movie, Harrison asked his playmate to go wading with him in the creek.

Man Held for Questioning

The compainion refused, saying that it was dark and he was going home, police said.

Harrison's companion told police that when he went toward home, the victim (Harrison) headed for the Pennsylvania Ave. bridge over Rock Creek and Rock Creek Parkway.

Late Monday, police said that in a roundup of the city's known sex perverts, a 40-year-old man was being held at No. 3 Precinct for questioning.

Negro Held Here For Passing About 25 Counterfeit $10 Bills

Advertiser Thurs. 11-17-49

Montgomery Ala.

Montgomery and federal authorities here have joined in a widespread search for the makers of $10 counterfeit bills.

The hunt was revealed yesterday after police had arrested a 23-year-old Chicago Negro, Albert Macklin, on charges of possessing and passing counterfeit notes.

Lt. J. R. Eiland and E. P. Brown, city detectives, said they found Macklin in possession of a $10 bogus bill when they arrested him at a rooming house on South Hall Street.

The detectives quoted Macklin as admitting he had passed about 25 counterfeit $10 bills here within the last three days and others in Tampa, Fla.

Although the Negro claims he is a lone worker, Eiland said a Negro woman is believed to have assisted him in passing the bills here. Both Eiland and U. S. Secret Service Agent T. V. Ryan who also is working on the case, expressed the belief that Macklin had purchased, rather than manufactured, the bills.

Police said Macklin claims to have had 90 bogus bills in his possession at one time. They added that, to last night, he had refused to say where he got them.

Eiland said Macklin apparently arrived in Montgomery Monday. Tuesday, he said, a local bank notified police that several counterfeit bills had been received.

Yesterday, on learning that several bogus bills had been passed on Dexter Avenue by a Negro man and woman, Detectives W. A. Davis, C. E. Jones, A. L. Herring and C. H. Vinson were assigned to check the area. Two hours later Eiland received a tip that led to Macklin's arrest.

Police said they believed that $85 found in Macklin's possession was obtained by changing the spurious money.

The Negro will be arraigned in U. S. District Court here. If found guilty he will face a maximum prison term of 15 years.

Police said the Negro has been convicted on two other charges, desertion and forgery while he was in the Army, and forgery in Chicago.

It was understood that the search for the counterfeiters covers several states, including Alabama, Illinois and Florida.

Dope Peddlers in Near Panic

Afro-American

Many Discard Drugs in Fear of Arrest

Sat. 11-5-49

Baltimore Md.

WASHINGTON

In the wake of the round-up of several alleged dope handlers and the conviction of Odessa Madre on eight counts of violation of the penal code last week, panic has gripped narcotic dealers here who, police say, are throwing away their products in large quantities.

Police authorities indicated that dope peddlers are discarding narcotics valued at huge sums in an effort to save their own hides.

Already nine bags of pure marijuana worth $2,250 and a carton of 100 heroin and cocaine capsules have been found, the dope being located in a clump of bushes on the Soldiers Home grounds last Thursday.

Lt. H. H. Carper of the narcotics squad said that enough dope to make 4,500 cigarettes that would sell for about 50 cents each was found along Powerhouse Road. Clifford E. Burkins, a resident of Soldier's Home, is reported to have discovered the cache.

Hearing Wednesday

Police rounded up 32 persons in 14 narcotic raids last Tuesday night. Among those arrested were Mrs. Evelina L. Roberts, 744 Girard St., N.W., and Dorothy Martin of 1333 Kenyon St., N.W. Mrs. Robert's husband, James Roberts, 41, is being sought by police.

Roberts is being sought as a key figure in the narcotics ring and is believed by police to have escaped the police dragnet and fled in his Cadillac automobile.

Mrs. Roberts has been released on $1500 bond. She was charged with transferring and acquiring marijuana. She is to appear before U.S. Commissioner Cyril S. Lawrence for a hearing Wednesday, Oct. 26.

TWO NEGRO MEN sat in [Dade] county jail behind bars for half a year even though they were not charged with violating any law. The men are material witnesses in two different cases which have not been brought to trial. . . . How did the men . . . get into jail? It was all very legal-like. . . . Criminal County Court Judge Ben Willard . . . set bail at $500 for each man, and because neither . . . had enough money to make bond, they were tossed into the clink. That was last April.—From the Miami, Florida *Daily News*, October 9.

Nation
12-31-49
13

RAPS MIGRANT CAMPS:

Slayer's Counsel Hits Life Offered Workers

Afro-American
Baltimore Md.

FREEHOLD—Living conditions of migrant workers in Monmouth County were cited by Defense Attorney Vincent P. Keuper during his summation of the three-day trial of Lonnie Dixon, 33, who was found guilty of manslaughter on Nov. 16 by a jury of six men and six women before County Court Judge John C. Giordani.

12-3-49
13

Dixon had pleaded self-defense in the July 21 fatal stabbing of Paul Peal, 45, who came to this State from Jacksonville, Fla., with Dixon about a week before the stabbing at the Bud Wall labor camp in Freehold township.

Sentence will be imposed on Dec. 2.

Declaring the migrants do not live—"merely exist"—Keuper asserted that migrant camps are "the closest existence to animal life I have ever seen."

13 1949 General

13

'22 Days on a Chain Gang

Survey of 44 Men at Roxboro Prison Camp Reveals Little Interest in Them or Society

Afro American Oct. 9-11-49

By BAYARD RUSTIN

In these additional notes, I have atempted to give a factual description of the lite of the prisoners at Roxboro State Prison camps.

In trying to discover some of the causes for the sordidness and misery which engulfs these men, I interviewed at length some 44 "under the gun" prisoners (no trusties) as to their education, family background, general attitude to life, ect.

Each man gave me permission to recheck ~~factual~~ information which he gave me with his friends in the camp, which in most cases I was able to do. I, therefore, am convinced that the material given is relatively accurate.

While I recognize the danger in drawing too many generalizations from such a partial survey and such limited data, I present the results and what I believe are objective comments upon them:

1. EDUCATION: The average inmate has 5.9 years of schooling; 22.6% have been to school three years or less. And 4.5% have had no schooling. Only 4.6% have gone beyond the ninth grade.

   There is ample evidence that lack of education results in a general inability to cope with life and a predisposition to crime. Yet at Roxboro there is no educational program; there is no library.

2. OCCUPATION: Of those interviewed, 70.5% are unskilled laborers; 13.6% are semiskilled. All are poor, work long hours and few have had a chance to live decently.

Not Encouraged To Think

Yet at Roxboro there is no vocational training, no vocational placement bureau and even thinking constructively on the job is actually implicity and explicitly discouraged.

Men leave the prison camp in the clothes in which they came no matter how worn or dirty. No money given them to tide them over while loking for work or even to get them home. (Men usually are taken where they surrendered, were sentenced or picked up.)

3. RECIDIVISM—Frequency of imprisonment: The men interviewed have been in prison an average of 4.2 times; 15.9% have been in five times, and 4.5% have been in ten times. The range is from one to twenty times.

Why Change? They Ask

It is not surprising when one realizes how ill prepared these men are to face the world when they leave. No greater argument is needed to show how prison fails to rehabilitate men than these facts. It is also clear that men apparently are not deferred from committing further crime by fear of incarceration.

13

4. NATURE OF CRIME: The majority of the crimes committed are those resulting from continual frustration in life outside. For example, 43.2% of the men interviewed were convicted of larceny, 25% convicted of assault and battery, 13.6% convicted of drunkenness.

At best, prison is a frustrating, uncreative experience. At Roxboro there is no real atempt to reduce the frustration. Nothing is offered in the way of sports, organized or unorganized.

There is no effort to develop the abundant, latent musical talents. There is not even a real effort on week ends to let prisoners "under the gun" get into the sunshine or to use the yard.

Already I have pointed out the vulgarity that is inherent in the situation when men are locked in together without access to books, games, or such common necessities as toothbrushes, razors, combs, or change or socks.

Majority Under 30

5. AGE GROUPING: I discovered that 54.5% of those interviewed were between the ages of 18 and 30.

   These men still have a chance to make some sort of adjustment to living outside of prison but not if they are debilitated physically by poor food, ever-long hours of work and if they are crushed spiritually by a system which does not permit them to respect themselves as men.

6. LENGTH OF SENTENCE: The average length of sentence for the forty-four men interviewed, is 22 months. This figure excludes some serving up to 20 and 30 years.

It is clear that many of the men are at Roxboro ample time to permit changes to take place if only the proper stimuli could be found and opportunities for more normal expression and living were made possible.

Yet at Roxboro there are no psychiatrical of psychological examinations, no psychiatric treatment, no remedial diet, no training in useful and money-making crafts, no reading and writing, no separation of juvenile delinquents.

EDUCATION

	No. of Years	No. of Persons	Percentage
	0	2	4.5
	2	6	13.6
	3	2	4.5
	4	4	9.1
	5	5	11.4
	6	5	11.4
	7	4	9.1
	8	6	13.6
	9	8	18.2
	10	1	2.3
	11	1	2.3
To'ls	65	44	100.0

5.9 average years of schooling.
22.6% have 3 or less years of schooling.
5.5 median years of schooling.
4.6% have gone beyond the ninth year of school.

OCCUPATIONS

Nature of Occupation	No. of Men	Percentage
Unskilled	31	13.6
Semi-skilled	6	70.5
Cement Fin.	2	
Brick Mason	1	
Truck driver	1	
Tobacconist	1	
Mortician	1	
Farm	2	4.5
Domestic	4	9.1
None	1	2.3
Totals	44	100.0

RECIDIVISM

	No. times in prison	No. of of men	Percentage
	1	7	15.9
	2	6	13.9
	3	8	18.2
	4	8	18.2
	5	7	15.9
	6	2	4.5
	7	1	2.3
	8	2	4.5
	10	2	4.5
	20	1	2.3
T'ls	66	44	99.9*

* These percentages figures were rounded off, and this would account for the slight discrepancy between the actual total and 100.0%.

NATURE OF CRIMES

Nature of Crime	No. of Men	Percentage
Assault and Battery	11	25.0
Larceny	19	43.2
Drunkenness	6	13.6
Non-Support	2	4.5
Manslaughter	1	2.3
Sex Crimes	2	4.5
Forgery	1	2.3
Auto Accident	1	2.3
Selling Whiskey	1	2.3
Totals	44	100.0

AGE GROUPING

Ages	No. of Men	Percentage
18-20	2	4.5
21-25	10	22.7
26-30	12	27.3
31-35	5	11.4
36-40	8	18.2
41-45	4	9.1
46-50	2	4.5
51-55	1	2.3
Totals	44	100.0

Age spread........18-55
Offenders between 18-30... 54.5%

LENGTH OF SENTENCE

Lgth. of Sentence in months	Number of Men	Pct.
1 (30 days)	8	18.19
2 (60 days)	2	4.54
3 (90 days)	3	6.80
7	1	2.27
12 (1 yr.)	9	20.45
15	1	2.27
18 (1½ yrs.)	4	9.09
24 (2 yrs.)	8	18.19
36 (3 yrs.)	1	2.27
41	1	2.27
48 (4 yrs.)	1	2.27
54 (4½ yrs.)	1	2.27
72 (6 yrs.)	1	2.27
96 (8 yrs.)	1	2.27
108 (9 yrs.)	1	2.27
120 (10 yrs.)	1	2.27
TOTALS	44	99.96

Average length of sentence in months ...22

Man Here Held Up; Store Raid By Pair Fails

Birmingham News
Birmingham Ala.

13

Intruder Is Captured Outside Woodlawn Residence By Police

Wed-1-10-49

Bandits roamed the city last night, robbing one person near a hospital where he had visited his sick son and making an unsuccessful robbery attempt at a grocery store. A bold intruder was arrested, police said, leaving a Woodlawn home.

Everett Brown, 45, Negro, of 518 South 65th Street, was in Southside Jail today on a burglary charge. Police arrested him about 7 o'clock last night outside the home of Mr. and Mrs. Franklin K. Maddox, 100 South 53rd Street.

MRS. MADDOX, police said, told them she and her husband were in the dining room when their three children, Meldarose, 13, Charles, 10, and Larry, 7, entered.

"The children were almost too frightened to speak," Mrs. Maddox said. "Finally they told us a Negro man had entered the front door and began prowling about. The children huddled in a corner and watched him."

Mr. Maddox, a railroad man, said he rushed into the living room but didn't find anyone. He opened the front door, he said, just in time to see a Negro man walking away from the front steps.

Mr. Maddox seized the intruder and held him while Mrs. Maddox called police.

Officers E. J. Martin and W. M. Prier, who took charge of the prisoner, said he feigned drunkenness and pretended to be lost.

ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO, Mrs. Maddox said, a Negro man was discovered at their back door during the night but pretended to be lost when asked what he was doing there. He ran when she went to call the police, Mrs. Maddox said.

En route home from a visit to his son, seriously ill at Jefferson Hospital, John Robert Miller, 38, a truck operator, told police he was robbed last night of his billfold containing $22 by two armed Negroes across the street from the hospital.

The victim said after leaving his son, Robert Ward Miller, 15, he started across the street to a parking lot. The bandits accosted him, he said. One pointed a pistol at him while the other took his billfold.

TWO NEGRO bandits made an unsuccessful attempt to hold up the Scalco Grocery Store at 1231 Sixth Avenue, North, last night, police reported.

The officers said Mr. and Mrs. Pete Scalco and their daughter, Rose, were in the store at the time.

"One of the men choked my father an demanded money," Rose Scalco told police.

"I went to get them some money so they would leave without hurting us. They got scared then when they saw me moving about and ran out of the store."

Police said Miss Scalco reached under a counter and got a pistol. She fired one shot at the fleeing men. Wed-1-10-49

Trio's Crack At Bake Shop Safe Failure

The News
Birmingham Ala
1-3-49 Mon.

Pistol-brandishing bandits struck swiftly at two places in the city early today, boldly stealing a truck and safe at one place and robbing a woman store operator of $310 at the other.

As C. N. Glasgow, 60, night watchman for the American Bakeries cracker plant, located at 2730 Fifth Avenue, South, made his rounds shortly after midnight he was confronted by three armed Negro bandits.

"Don't make any fuss and don't try nothing," the bandits warned, the night watchman told police.

* * *

THE BANDITS THEN marched their victim through the cracker plant to the far end where they forced him into a men's washroom, police said.

"They kept a pistol pointed at my back and kept warning me against looking at them," the victim said. "When they pushed me in the washroom they took a rope and tied me hand and foot.

"They threatened again to kill me if I looked at them. I managed to look at them anyway. They wore cloth masks of some sort with only their eyes showing."

Leaving their victim, police said, in the wash room, the bandits returned to the company office where they found an acetylene torch used to repair an oven and began working on a small safe.

They burned the combination off the door, but found the inner door locked.

The men then carried the safe to a rear loading platform. They stole a pickup truck from the company's garage and loaded the safe on it.

* * *

COMPANY OFFICIALS said the safe contained no money at the time because of the New Year's holiday and bank deposits had been made.

Several hours later the truck with the safe still on it was found by police in an isolated place near Sixth Avenue, South, and Sixth Street, several blocks in the rear of the Southside Jail. The inner safe door was still locked.

City Detectives W. F. Gladden and J. T. Howell, who investigated, assisted by Radio Patrolmen R. W. Harvey and M. E. Giles, said the bandits entered the plant through a window in the boiler room.

Officers said although roughly handled while being tied up, the night watchman was not injured.

Dora Lewis, Negro woman operator of the Lewis Confectionary, 515 Eighth Avenue, North, told police two white men robbed her of $310 early today.

"They came in my place shortly before 1 a.m.," she said. "One of them asked for a package of cigarets and a cold drink."

"As I started to wait on them, the younger man of the two told me to turn around. I did and looked into the 'business end' of a pistol. He cocked the trigger and demanded my money."

* * *

THE WOMAN SAID she told the bandits she didn't have any money.

"Give me the sack with the money in it," she said the bandit demanded, then added, "Hurry or I'll shoot hell out you."

The woman said she handed over a sack containing $305, her receipts for the last four days of business.

"Open that cash register now and be damn quick," the bandit said, pointing the pistol at her, the victim told police.

"I opened the cash register and handed the bandit a handful of change—about $5,'" she said.

Taking the money, she said, the two bandits ran from the store, the second one having stood guard near the door while the robbery was taking place.

Police said the woman told them she recognized the bandits as two men who came into her store about two months ago and wanted to know who the owner was.

The yalso asked how much business was done by the store and the amount handled during the day.

Officers D. A. Cheatwood and H. A. Thatenhurst investigated.

"When he cocked that pistol and started cursing me I just knew he was going to shoot," the officers said the victim told them.

Krashel Shaw, 19, and Clifford Turner, 18, both of Phenix City, are being held in Muscogee County Jail, Columbus, Ga., as officers investigated a report that a 17-year-old Phenix City girl has been raped.

Police Chief J. Harvey Davidson said the girl told him the boys took her from a high school club dance to "get a chocolate milk." Instead, she told the officer, they drove into Georgia where she was attacked.

The chief said the girl had known the boys several years. Shaw and Turner are being held without bonds.

10-Year Sentence Given Obscene Letter Writer

Atlanta Constitution

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—(AP)—An Alabama Negro who admitted mailing obscene letters to white women was punished yesterday with a 10-year Federal prison sentence.

Atlanta Georgia

John Wesley Jackson, 30, of Dothan, was sentenced by U. S. District Judge C. B. Kennamer after pleading guilty. Judge Kennamer called the letters the "filthiest, vilest, most lascivious" he has ever read in 18 years as a jurist. Fri-4-15-49

Negro Bishop Ware Held In Postal Caes

Commercial Appeal

Special to The Commercial Appeal

PADUCAH, Ky., April 29.—Bishop Arthur B. Wade, 55, nergo custodial laborer at the Postoffice, Friday was arrested on charges of taking a first class letter containing money.

Memphis Tennessee
Sat-4-30-49

He was released at noon on $500 bond after waiving preliminary hearing before Unite Sdtates Commissioner Warren Eaton. He was arrested at 2:30 a.m. in the postoffice mailroom by Inspectors T. P. Daly and M. V. Saylor of the Danville, Ky., postoffice district.

Mr. Daly said the Paducah minister "has confessed the whole thing." An investigation of mail tampering has been under way here for some time, he added.

A veteran of World War I, Bishop Ware had been employed at the postoffice here for 19 years. He founded and formerly was pastor of the Church of the Living God, the Pillar and Ground of the Truth. He has conducted radio broadcasts for the church for the past 20 years. He also has been active in politics here.

Mr. Daly said the letter Bishop Ware was accused of taking contained a small amount of money. It was addressed to Mrs. Josephine Lester, 1447 South Ninth Street, and bore the return address 116 Union Street.

Lifer Is Sued For Insurance Paid In Holdup

Courier Journal
Louisville Kentucky

A man serving a life term at LaGrange Reformatory yesterday was sued for $861 an insurance company paid the owner of a drugstore he was convicted of holding up. Tues 5-3-49

The suit was filed in Circuit Court against Alfred C. White, 23, Negro, formerly of 1429 W. Chestnut. He was sentenced for holding up the Fifteenth Street Dispensary, 15th and Garland, on February 19.

The Globe Indemnity Company of New York filed the suit. The suit said the company had paid the sum to Mrs. Ethel G. Waldman, the owner, for the loss.

The suit said the company had reason to believe White was about to dispose of some property to avoid repayment. It cited a package held in his name at the police property room here.

Police said the package contained 14 rolls of nickels taken from White when he was arrested.

3 Year Sentence Is 16 Hours For Each Egg Stolen

Chicago Defender
Chicago Ill.
Sat 3-26-49

LAUREL, Miss.— Sixteen hours at hard labor for every egg he stole was the sentence meted out to an underpaid Negro here Tuesday when Judge B. Frank Carter sent Winfred Graves, 25, to infamous Parchman prison for three years for stealing four crates. Each contained 30 dozen eggs and total value of all was $69 at the time of the theft, last November.

Sat 3-26-49

An all white jury found Graves guilty of taking the eggs from the Laurel Wholesale Grocery company.

Suspect Is Arrested In $900 Holdup

Held In Robbery At Liquor Store

Courier Journal
Louisville Ky

A man accused of the $900 holdup of the Fifteenth Street Dispensary, 15th and Garland, Saturday morning was booked by police at 3:15 p.m. yesterday on charges of armed robbery and grand larceny.

The suspect, Alfred Edward White, 23, Negro, 1429 W. Chestnut, was identified by Herbert Berne, 44, clerk at the store, as the gunman who took 25 minutes to rob the place while a dozen persons tried the front door, which had been locked by the gunman.

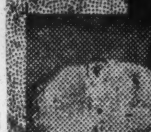
Tues 2-22-49

White, who denied the robbery, was arrested by Detectives Allen Brennan and Charles Baxter after he attempted to sell a typewriter at Max Miehl & Sons, 107 W. Market. The typewriter had been reported stolen from Fort Knox.

Fourteen rolls of nickels found at White's home earlier had been identified as having been taken in the liquor-store robbery. Berne said the gunman took about $750 from the safe and about $150 from the cash register.

Thieves who broke into Leo's Hideaway, 115 W. Jefferson, early yesterday got away with nothing but two bottles of beer, two soft drinks, and a couple of pies. The burglars got in by dropping through a fan vent in the roof

WALTER White



The Press Still Plays Up The Negro Criminal

Chicago Defender

ONE of the more widely quoted and sound observations of the

Chicago Defender

late Booker T. Washington was to the effect that no Negro ever needed to worry about getting all the front-page newspaper publicity he wanted—by committing, or more frequently simply being charged with committing, a heinous crime.

Dr. Washington cited a recent experience of delivering a speech which had been enthusiastically received by a large audience in which were some of the leading citizens of the town. Next morning Dr. Washington eagerly picked up the newspapers to see the treatment which had been given to his address. In an eight-column spread across the front page was a lurid story of a Negro having been lynched. Over on page 37, buried among the advertisements, was a one-sentence paragraph that Dr. Booker T. Washington, President of Tuskegee Institute, had spoken the previous evening.

I have had two occasions recently to remember this story. The first was when the New York **World Telegram**, a Scripps-Howard paper, blazened on page one of its issue of February 24, the story of an alleged rape by a Negro in Brooklyn. Seven times in the headline, the sub-head, and in the body of the story the word "Negro" was used. In addition, there was unnecessary emphasis on the fact that the alleged victim was a "southern" white woman.

Sat-3-13-49

The accused man may be guilty. But, if he is, he belongs in Barnum and Bailey's circus as a contortionist. According to the **World Telegram** story, the man assaulted the woman not once but twice on the back seat of the automobile as he held a gun on her white male companion in the front seat.

The other occasion when I remembered Dr. Washington's story was recently in Denver. I had been honored by being invited to address the Great Issues Course of the University of Denver. The auditorium in which I spoke was filled to capacity by an audience which was warmly receptive and so deeply interested that the meeting ran far beyond the scheduled closing hour and was stopped only when Dr. Ben M. Cherrington shut off further questions.

Next morning I read the Denver paper. There were two stories about Negroes featured. On page 2 was a three-column headline, "TRIAL IS ORDERED FOR FATHER DIVINE IN $600,000 PLOT." On the sports page appeared a column about Joe Louis' retirement, allowing as how Joe was a pretty good fighter but that he never could take a blow around the head (who can?). I went through the paper twice. Most diligent search revealed no evidence that I had been in town or that one of the most interesting contemporary experiments of integration of book learning into contemporary history was being conducted at the University of Denver.

In all fairness it must be said that the newspapers have progressed far beyond their attitude of Booker Washington's day. But it is still easier for a Negro criminal or one charged with crime to grab headlines. In modern journalism that is true also of whites. But not to the same extent.

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Boy, 12, Found Chained to Cot in North Carolina Farm Home

Afro-American

13

Baltimore Maryland

SHELBY, N.C. (ANP) — A 12-year-old boy was found lying chained under a cot in a farm home two miles west of here recently by a white tenant farmer and a constable. The boy, Lathers Laban, was said to have been chained because "he didn't have sense."

Sat-7-16-49

According to Sheriff Hugh A. Logan, Red McDaniel, the farmer, heard screams emanating from the house. With the constable, he went to the house and found the boy under the cot. The youngster's wrists were secured by a short length of chain. The boy's mother and grandmother were at home.

The youth said he had been lying there since early the previous day, during which time he had been given only a few drops of water and a few crusts of bread. He said he had been "locked up like that" before.

The boy was placed under the care of the farmer until county welfare authorities could take over his case.

NEGRO WOMAN 'CONNED' OUT OF $1036 IN CASH

Appeal

The Commercial Appeal

It's The Ancient 'Pigeon Dropping' Game

Fri-5-20-49

13

Memphis, Tenn.

Duped into believing she was going to share in $3000 found by a negro man, Mamie Harris, 31-year-old negro woman, lost $1036 in cash in the ancient "pigeon dropping" confidence game, Chief of Detectives Hinds said yesterday.

The man and an unidentified negro woman, working as his confederate, took Mamie's money and left her waiting in a downtown alley Saturday. They never reappeared.

Fri. 5-20-49

Mamie told police a negro woman standing behind her in line at the postal savings window in the postoffice pointed out a negro man who was supposed to have found a billfold. The billfold was supposed to contain $3000.

Fri. 5-20-49

Mamie and the negro woman were told by the man they could have $1000 each for not reporting his having found the billfold. However, he said, both had to put up $1000 to show their good faith.

Fri. 5-20-49

The woman gave him what appeared to be a big roll of bills, and checks, Mamie told officers. In an excess of good faith, Mamie gave the man $1025, which she withdrew from her postal savings account, plus $11 she had in her pocketbook.

Fri. 5-20-49

13

Both the negroes left Mamie to go to the office of the negro man's boss. They supposedly were going so the other woman could indorse a check covering her part of the $1000 "good faith money."

5-20-49

Mamie, who lives at 106 East Trigg, told Lieuts. S. D. McCleary and G. E. Martin the couple was driving in a two-tone gray automobile which might have been a Buick.

5-20-49

Negro Prefers Prison To Elmore Farm Job

Montgomery Advertiser

13

Montgomery, Ala.

A young Negro went to prison voluntarily yesterday to keep from going back to the farm.

Tues. 5-31-49

Twenty-four-year-old Benjamin Sims asked Circuit Judge Eugene Carter to revoke his two-year probation and send him to Kilby Prison. The judge obliged.

Sims had asked for probation last Friday when he pleaded guilty to a grand larceny charge. But when he learned the probation officer had found him a farm job in Elmore County, where he came from, the Negro told the judge he preferred a cell.

Tues. 5-31-49

He explained it this way:

If he returned to Elmore County, he might get in trouble again. So he just figured prison life would be better.

Hotel Patrons Fined, Jailed

The Defender

Chicago Ill.

MIAMI, Fla — Two white New York women, Muriel Marshak and Patricia Leo were arrested at the Mary Elizabeth hotel where they had rented a room, fined $250 each and sentenced to 30 days in jail, although there was no evidence of the improper conduct with which they were charged.

13

Also arrested were Hardwick Griffin, desk clerk and William Green, musician. Green was talking with the women in their room when the police broke in.

Sat. 6-18-49

Counsel for the defendants charged the entry and arrests were illegal. The judge, however, ruled otherwise.

Negro Is Wounded Fleeing Officers

13

A 40-year-old Negro burglary suspect is in "only fair" condition at Hillman Hospital today after being shot by police.

He is Joe Williams, of Montgomery.

Birmingham News

The police report on the shooting follows:

13

Detectives J. T. Howell and George Palmer yesterday morning attempted to question Williams in investigating the burglary of the home of Dr. D. H. Sparks, 1520 Seventh Avenue, West. Dr. Sparks had reported his house had been entered Saturday night and a diamond ring taken.

Birmingham, Ala.

The officers stopped Williams in the 800 block of West 16th Street and sought to question him. He ran and the officers fired twice.

The officers overtook him in a wooded area in the rear of 1637 Eighth Court, West. When Williams was cornered he attempted to fight Palmer, the officers reported and Palmer fired again.

Williams suffered gunshot wounds in the forehead and left chest.

Mon. 6-6-49

The officers said they searched Williams and found the ring which had been taken from the Sparks home. They said Williams admitted taking it.

Dr. Sparks was out of the city when the burglary occurred.

Judge Andrews Grants Defense Motion In Perry Murder Trial

BY ROBERT E. JOHNSON

The fate of a 19-year-old murder suspect Wednesday was postponed before reaching an all-white jury for deliberation when Fulton Superior Judge E. E. Andrews granted the defense attorney a motion for a mistrial on the grounds that Prosecution Attorney Ogden Doremus attempted to invoke the "race issue" in his final argument to the jury.

13 Ga

Atlanta Ga.

Defense Attorneys Pierre Howard and Elmore Holt, representing William Perry, Jr., made a motion for a mistrial when they charged Attorney Doremus with urging the jurors to start teaching Negroes that they have got to obey the law, and invoking the race issue in his concluding argument.

Judge Andrews granted the counsel for defense a motion for a mistrial and warned the prosecution: "The defendant is being tried as a citizen and not as a member of a racial group."

11-17-49

William Perry went on trial Tuesday morning, charged with the knife-slaying of Albert Lee Clark, of 452 McDaniel Street, following a dispute over a dollar bet in a dice game.

SELECTS JURORS

The actual trial procedure got underway Tuesday afternoon after more than an hour had been consumed in selecting jurors for the criminal trial. At least three panels of petit jurors paraded in and out of the box as both the state and defense attorneys excused many of the jurors after determining whether or not they favored capital punishment.

13 Ga

11-17-49

Panel four, which included one Negro juror, stood by as the twelfth juror was selected from panel three.

STATE WITNESSES CALLED

Following the opening statement of the prosecution, the first testimony given was that of a witness for the state, Miss Annie Bell Anderson. She told the court she was in the vicinity of McDaniel and Richardson Streets when the stabbing took place. She said she saw Perry when he held Clark in the collar and stabbed him in the chest. "Clark fell to his knees," she said, "then picked up his hat and started up the street where he fell." Under cross examination by Defense Attorney Howard, she said she did not see Clark with any weapon. She added that she and another woman attempted to assist the stab victim when an auto approached and took him to the hospital.

Mrs. Lora Mae Hood, of 1413 Hardin Street, the second witness gave virtually the same version but added: "Clark held Perry then some one came from behind and hit Clark in the head and kicked him in the knee. Clark fell and Perry stabbed him."

He then wiped the blood off the knife and put it in his pocket," she added.

Miss Lillie Ruth Dennis, daughter of Mrs. Hood sought to bear out the testimony of Mrs. Hood. Mrs. Betty Clark, wife of the deceased, was introduced to the court and then Cleveland R. Lyons, embalmer employed by Sellers Brothers morticians, took the witness stand. He described the wound found on the deceased man.

Detective J. E. Helms, homicide investigator in the case, was the subject of intense cross examination when he stated that at the time of Perry's arrest, the murder suspect said the stabbing was the result of a dispute over a dollar in a dice game. "Perry claimed Clark cut his pants and he Perry stabbed him," Detective Helms said. He then added that the cut looked as though it was made by the arrested man, but the statement was deleted from the court record when Judge Andrews sustained the objection made by the defense.

DEFENSE WITNESSES TESTIFY

After defense made its opening statement, two star witnesses for the defense were introduced.

Andrew Williams, of 435 Richardson Street, who said he was placing bets in the game, testified that he saw a knife in Clark's hand when the latter called Perry's play for a point of ten and accused: "The money ain't right!" The witness said both Clark and Perry jumped up at the same time and pulled knives. "Clark cut at Perry first and cut his pants," Williams said, "and Perry stabbed Clark."

"Didn't you hit Clark in the back of his neck," Prosectuion Attorney Doremus questioned in increasing vocal tempo.

"No, sir," Williams replied, emphasizing his denial.

John Arnold, of 24 Wells Street, who said he took part in the game, gave testimony which affirmed that given by Williams.

Under cross examination, Attorney Doremus demanded:

"What did you do when Clark was stabbed?"

"I just whistled 'whew' and walked away," Arnold replied.

Final arguments by the defense, contending that Perry stabbed Clark in defending himself, were made to the jury. Then Prosecution Attorney Doremus began his argument which resulted in a mistrial. The case will be reset at a future date.

Wounded Victim Found Guilty Of Police Riff

BY ROBERT E. JOHNSON

A 30-year-old bullet-scarred Negro horticulturist, facing a charge of assault with intent to murder a white policeman, yesterday had been found guilty as charged and sentenced 2 to 3 years imprisonment.

13 Ga

An all-white jury deliberated about four hours before returning a verdict of guilty, recommending punishment of the defendant by imprisonment.

The assault charge was brought against the defendant, Henry J. Johnson, of 501 Redwine St., College Park, by Officer H. C. Hammond last April 7, when the policeman alleged that Johnson cut him in the left eye during a skirmish on Evans Drive near Fort McPherson.

It was during the scuffle that Johnson was said to have been shot twice by Officer Hammond, who, the defendant said, stood over his bullet-felled body and cursed: "G—D—N—N—R, ain't you dead yet?"

12-14-49

Earlier in the trial, Solicitor Ogden Doremus read the bill of indictment in which Hammond made the assault charge. Later, he introduced three prosecution witnesses who alleged they were at the scene of the incident when the assault took place

Ga.

One prosecution witness, identifying himself as a truck driver, told the court he was cranking his car when the police "tried to arrest the boy" and later heard shots.

Another said he was passing in a car and got out to investigate. The police had the defendant by the arm, he said.

POLICEMAN TESTIFIES

Meanwhile, Officer Hammond took the stand and testified. He said he stopped the defendant near the front gate at Fort McPherson and the defendant tried to get away. Johnson was ordered to get out of the truck and was put in the patrol car, he said. The officer then alleged that the prisoner, seated in the rear of the car, struck him in the eye with a knife, and then jumped out of the car, and ran up an alley. He said he shot the prisoner after he had chased him.

Defense Attorney William F. Lozier sought to disprove the allegations made by the solicitor and his witnesses.

The defense attorney first contended that there was no eyewitness at the alleged scene of the incident except the policeman and the defendant, and then sought to prove that his client was not guilty of the charge lodged against him. Before asking his client to relate what happened before he was shot, Attorney Lozier introduced five white character witnesses who lauded the defendant while testifying that "he is a man of good character and has a good reputation."

DEFENDANT ON STAND

When the defendant testified, he gave this version of the skirmish:

"I was having trouble with the truck and stopped to check the lights. When I started to get out, a policeman approached and said, 'Don't run n——r."

"Run for what?" I asked.

" 'You think you're smart,' the policeman said and then searched me.'

Johnson said he was then placed in the patrol car and told "I'm going to lock you up." He said the officer attempted to strike him. "He had a knife so I grabbed his hand," the defendant said. (Earlier he said the officer searched him and found his flower knife) "The blade of the knife went through my arm," Johnson said, "and I'm cut, now I'm going to kill h——l out of you," the defendant related.

JUMPED OUT OF CAR

He said he jumped out of the car and ran. He was caught and shot, he testified. "After I had been shot, I heard him say, 'G——d——n n—r, ain't you dead yet?"

The defendant said he didn't remember anything else because he passed out.

During the trial, it was brought out that a doctor had examined the defendant and "found him suffering from two shot wounds and two operations."

DENIED APPEAL BOND

Following the conviction, Judge E. E. Andrews denied the defendant an appeal bond, pending a hearing on January 10 on a motion for a new trial filed by Attorney Lozier. Judge Andrews told the attorney that he would not allow an appeal bond in any felony case.

The defendant's wife, Mrs. Mary Johnson, sat through the trial with their 5 children, the youngest a four-month old baby. Relatives of Johnson are left to operate his business of selling flowers. The defendant inherited the business from his deceased parents.

13 1949

Georgia

Punishment For Negro Killers Poses Problem

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the third in a series of articles dealing with Negro homicides.)

13 Ga

BY ROBERT E. JOHNSON

Negroes are not by nature more criminal than whites, scientific and sociologial studies have shown. But it is apparent in this study that, in the area of homicidal crimes, they face law enforcement officials in greater numbers than whites.

However, such homicidal offenses, as defined by the Fulton County Solicitor General Office, can seldom be classified as murders since most of them are not premeditated or planned before they are actually committed. They, in the main, are manslaughter offenses growing out of mutual combat.

World 4-29-49

Moreover, a study of the criminal motives for homicide offenses already mentioned, clearly points out that most of the offenses resulted from sudden anger. For example:

One homicide detective, having concluded his investigation, reported: "The perpetrator asked his mother and step-father, who were about to sit on a living room sofa, not to move the sofa or sit on it because he wanted to sleep there and get some air. An argument developed over the sofa and the perpetrator shot both parents. The step-father died five days later."

In another investigation, homicide detectives reported: "..... and the girl pointed at the victim and said, 'that is the one who robbed me.' The perpetrator said, 'I'll fix that s...o...b...' and the girl handed the perpetrator a knife .... The victim was stabbed to death."

Jealousy, domestic troubles and revenge are among other motives frequently listed by city detectives in their felonious homicide reports. Also it is apparent that some of the crimes grew out of a disrespect for the law and the life of other Negroes. The latter has its explanation rooted in the cultural and societal pattern of this southern city. Since Negro homicide offenders, for the most part, are conscious of the fact that there is a law for Negroes and a law for whites, of which the former is arbitrarily enforced as long as the crime is not directed against whites.

This bi-racial patternprevents Negroes from taking part in the legislation of criminal laws and, until recently, gave them no chance to enforce the law. With the addition of Negro policeman, one can observe a growing respect for both the law and the life of other Negroes, even though Negro policemen do not wholly solve the homicide problem.

Turning to the question of punishment for Negroes who are tried before the courts for killing other Negroes, a judicial problem is involved.

The fact that many Negro murder offenders were apparently certain that they would be punished lightly for their crimes if some "good white folks" testified as "character" witnesses obviously caused them to regard lightly the value of the lives of other Negroes. This seemed to be true in some cases of "repeat" murder offenders who had been previously sentenced from 1 to 2 or 3 years, and were paroled after serving about one-third of the minimum sentence.

Generally speaking, it is an unwritten code among jurors, usually composed of whites only, that Negroes facing a manslaughter charge get sentences from 1 to 3 years. There are exceptions, depending upon the testimony in such cases. On the other hand, severe sentences are usually reserved for murder offenders. They usually range from 5 years to the maximum or death penalty.

Court officials contend that since there are so few clear-cut cases of murder where Negroes are involved, it is often difficult to severely punish the offenders, within the bounds of the criminal codes of Fulton county.

Writer Cites Need For More Rigid Punishment Of Killers

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World

(This is the fifth in a series of articles dealing with Negro homicides in Atlanta).

Crime

[redacted]

13 Ga

BY ROBERT E. JOHNSON

Punishment for Negro homicide offenders has been the subject of much public discussion by both law enforcement officials and race-conscious leaders. An analysis of opinions advanced in these discussions indicates almost complete agreement on one point: Negro killers should be severely punished!

In Fulton county it appears that the prevailing penal philosophy adheres closely to that of the classical school of enology—punishment should fit the crime. The fact that Fulton jurors, since January 1944, have statistically shown a tendency to recommend severe punishment for some offenders and treat others less seriously, clearly indicates that they attempt to see that the guilty gets a sentence nearly equal with the degree of seriousness. For example:

Date 10-1-49

A Negro homicide offender was given a 1 to 5 year sentence when testimony was introduced to the effect that the victim followed the defendant around with an axe, cursing and arguing and was shot in a fight that followed.

In another case, the jurors recommended a death penalty for a Negro murderer when the following testimony was introduced: The victim and the perpetrator had a heated argument, during which time the victim followed the perpetrator home, still arguing. But when the victim noticed that the perpetrator went in his house and returned with a shotgun, he fled with a knife in his hand, whereupon the assailant overtook him and fired a volley of shots that fatally wounded the victim. A coroner report showed that the victim had been shot in the back. The jury returned a manslaughter verdict and recommended the death penalty.

"You can't tell what a jury and a mule will do," a spectator remarked when he heard the sentence announced.

Negro leaders have contended all along that Negro killers should be punished severely. Their whipping-post recommendations, for the most part, are: "Send some of the Negroes to the death chair. Give more of them life sentences."

However, if life terms and death penalties deter Negro homicide offenders, their effectiveness have not been convincingly demonstrated.

In 1944, of the forty-two Negro homicide offenders tried in Fulton Superior courts for the murder of other Negroes, 23 per cent of the offenders were given life sentences and 3 per cent got the death penalty. In 1945, approximately 51 Negro prisoners, nine more than the previous year, drew the following percentage of severe punishment: 30 per cent received life terms and 2 per cent death penalties.

Approximately 37 were convicted in 1946. There was no death penalty, but 38 per cent of the offenders were given life imprisonment. In 1947, of the 56 offenders tried, 35 per cent got life terms and 2 per cent the death penalty. In 1948, 46 were convicted. Approximately 34 percent of the prisoners received life sentences. There was not death penalty.

Meanwhile, the Negro homicide rate showed a steady gain for the first three years — 56 in 1944, 76 in 1945, and 87 in 1946. In 1947 the total was 82, and 74 in 1948.

Apparently severe penalties have not caused a significant curtailment in homicidal offenses among Negroes. It is obvious that there is a need for more scientific investigation in the area of Negro homicides and an attempt to remedy and reorder society in such a fashion that conditions will not be conducive to criminal conduct. A reduction of poverty, the establishment of better schools, more wholesome recreational outlets and better jobs will go far in reducing these crimes.

Let's Help Catch The Thugs

George Moore, Sr. well known ice cream manfacturer, was slugged and robbed near his business establishment here Wednesday night. Reports from the hospital indicate that he is in "fair" condition. We hope that he will soon recover and be able to aid in the search, which police are now making to apprehend his assailants.

Daily World 13 Ga

Police are searching for two alleged Negro attackers. If it can be established that the thugs are Negroes, we are prepared to ask that the law take its fullest course and deal with them according to the crime they have committed. Their kind should be dealt with sternly and with finality. Atlanta cannot afford to permit thugs of this kind to roam its streets and molest its honest, hard-working citizens. We have moved ahead too far in our relationships to permit such thugs to idle around and wait at the end of the day for some honest and upright person to walk into their nets and be slain. It is bad for the safety of the whites and its bad for the well-being of the Negro. Everyone will be better off when we are able to get rid of such people. We think that they ought to be sought earnestly and when found, should be made to feel the full brunt of their dastard brutality.

3 Ga

Apprehension Of Murder Suspect Eagerly Sought

Daily World Atlanta, ga

Homicide detectives Tuesday said the police department had broadcast a warning to all patrol cars in the Atlanta area to be on the lookout for murder suspect, sought in connection with the Halloween slaying of an Atlanta beautician Monday morning.

13 Ga.

Detectives R. E. Little and H. E. Burdette, homicide investigators assigned to the case, were able to identify the suspected murderer after a preliminary probing at the scene of the crime and with the help of some information received from several witnesses.

Thurs. 11-3-49

Miss Ardelia Allen, of 260 Ashby Street, N. W., co-owner of the Unique Beauty Salon, corner of Vine and Magnolia Streets, was fatally wounded early Monday morning by a gun-wielding assailant who police said shot the victim shortly after she alighted from a taxicab.

The 35-year-old beautican was found slain in the front yard of her residence. Herman Beal, of 224 Ashby Street, N. W., who discovered the deceased woman lying in her yard, summoned the police to the scene.

Another witness, identified as Miss Adel Slater, said the suspect who reportedly resides at both Ashby and Fair Street addresses encountered the beautician as she sought entrance to her home, detectives reported. They were told that the woman apparently scuffled with her assailant before his gun barked out a report of the tragic fatality.

Grady hospital officials and police cars arrived at the scene of the slaying immediately after a crowd had gathered. The victim was pronounced dead on the scene and her body was removed to a local undertaking establishment.

Meanwhile, Detectives Little and Burdette said they have in their possession enough information to present to the Fulton Grand Jury as a basis for an indictment. The fulton jurors are expected to take action on the case at Friday's jury hearings and Solicitor General Paul Webb will ask for a true bill of indictment in connection with the slaying, the detectives said.

Atlanta, Ga.
Daily World
11-3-49

Funeral rites will be held Thursday night at Wheat Street Baptist Church. Survivors of the deceased woman include Mr. and Mrs. Jackson Allen, mother and father, and Mrs. John Robinson, sister, of Albenmarle, N. C., Samuel Allen, of Durham, N. C.

Tax Mess-Up

Doctors Fined in Atlanta

The Courier
Pittsburgh Pa.
Sat. 7-2-49

(Special to The Courier)

ATLANTA, Ga. — Two prominent Savannah doctors, Dr. Stephen M. McDow Jr., and Dr. Nathaniel H. Collier, last week in Federal Court were fined $10,000 each on tax evasion counts, given suspended sentences of one year each and placed on probation for two years. Sat. 7-2-49

Dr. Collier, a dentist, was convicted of tax return falsification for the years 1943 and 1947. For 1943 he reported income of $2,065 and paid a tax of $217.19. His actual income, the Government charged, was $18,615.44 for the period and payment of $6,301.31 was due the Government. In 1947 he reported $2,155.99 and paid $180. The Government charged that his actual income for that period was $17,064.29 and the Government was due $4,970.

McDEW RECORD

Dr. McDew reported $1,835.50 in 1945 and paid $307.17. His actual income, the Government claimed, was $10,209.86. The Government charged it was due $2,832.65. In 1947 he reported $2,944.43 and paid $274.45. The Government claimed his income for that period was $11,279.52 and tax due was $2,436.79.

Both medical men paid all back taxes and penalties of 50 per cent plus interest due on the sums owed, according to Government charges. The penalties were imposed by Federal Judge Robert Russell.

NO DEFENSE Sat. 7-2-49

In each case three of the counts against the defendants were dismissed upon pleas of nolo contendre, meaning, in effect, no defense. Representing Dr. Collier were Attys. John J. Bouhan and Aaron Kravitch, Savannah, and Atty. Julian Hartridge represented Dr. McDew.

Justice Russell in placing the defendants on probation noted that he was doing so because both had good records and that as physicians they are "needed in the community."

Man Escapes From Grady Hospital

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.
13

A Grady hospital patient James Wynn, 20, escaped the attention of hospital authorities late Thursday night and disappeared, it was revealed Friday.

Wynn had been hospitalized after a Cain Street disturbance last Saturday during which time a patrolman was injured when his head reportedly struck against the bus station wall in the scuffle.

Attendants said Wynn apparently "walked out" of the hospital where he had been taken for treatment of minor injuries sustained in the set-to. Sat. 6-4-49

Reports of the Saturday scuffle said John Ergle, Atlanta policeman, suffered head injuries when he attempted to place Wynn under arrest after a Georgia Power Company bus driver stopped and asked the officer to remove the passenger from the bus.

Man 'Roughed Up' At Bus Station, Officer Injured

Atlanta Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.
Sun. 5-29-49
13

An Atlanta Patrolman was in Grady Hospital Saturday night following a scuffle in a crowded bus station during the policeman's attempt to arrest a Negro youth.

Lt. G. R. Elliott said that James Wynn, 20 suddenly slammed patrolman John G. Ergle against the side of the bus station after Ergle had removed him from a bus where, according to the driver, Wynn was being "disorderly." Sun. 5-29-49

When other policemen arrived at the scene, Elliott said, the youth was being held by three or four civilians. Ergle was lying unconscious on the sidewalk.

Detectives S. E. Smith and O. T. Jones said that they placed Wynn in a patrol car and that, on the way he turned and struck Jones. Sun. 5-29-49

A Georgia Tech professor, who asked his identity to be withheld, said that Wynn was "out cold" on the bus and that Ergle had fallen and struck his head as he tried to remove him from the bus. 5-29-49

The professor, who was a passenger on the bus, said several people, in both civilian clothes and uniforms, then "roughed up" the prisoner.

'Peeping Tom' Suspect Shot, Held in Hospital

The Constitution
Atlanta, Ga.

A 25-year-old Negro man who allegedly peered into a room in which two girls were dressing lies critically wounded in Grady Hospital. Sat.

According to police reports, the Negro, listed as Charles Dixon, of 476 Connally St., S. E., was admitted to the hospital early yesterday suffering bullet wounds in the arm and chest.

Patrolmen T. R. Reid and C. W. Lindsey said John Nickerson, 20, of 507 Hill St., S. E., told them he shot Dixon when he found him prowling around his home. white

Reid and Lindsey quoted Nickerson as saying he watched Dixon peer into the room occupied by two girls, walk across the driveway to another house and then walk back to where he allegedly was seen the first time.

Thinking Dixon a burglar, Nickerson said, he shot him once with a .32 calibe pistol. No charges were filed against Nickerson, the officers said. Sat. 7-9-49

Dixon was ordered held at the hospital on charges of suspicion of burglary.

Woman Guilty In Abortion

The Constitution
13 Ga.

Marie Soldaat, Atlanta white woman recently convicted in Federal Court for violation of the Mann Act, was convicted in Fulton Criminal Court yesterday for helping perform an abortion on a 22-year-old white woman. 6-7-49

Tried before Judge Jesse M. Wood and a five-man jury, she was given a sentence of 12 months in a work camp. She has not yet been sentenced by the Federal Court. Atlanta, Ga.

John I. Kelley, who prosecuted the case with Mose George, said the defendant was involved in a reported "abortion ring" with two Negro men. Otis K. Lee, of 889 Drummond St., S. W., was convicted last week for performing an illegal operation on the same woman and was sentenced to 12 months in a work camp and six months in jail. Kelley said E. D. Crockett, of 178 Bailey St., S. W., turned State's evidence and would enter a plea of guilty. Tue. 6-7-49

Youth Shot By Negro in Rob Attempt

Constitution
Atlanta, Ga.
Fri. 10-15-49

An 18-year-old Atlanta youth last night was shot by a Negro bandit who attempted to rob the youth on the Humphries Street viaduct.

Dets. R. E. Little and H. E. Burdett said Donald G. Lester, of 1406 Westmont Dr., S. W., was admitted to Grady Hospital suffering a bullet wound in his left leg near the pelvic bone.

Little and Burdett said Lester was accosted by the armed Negro as he walked across the viaduct to transfer to a trolley on Peters Street. The youth had stepped from a Whitehall Street trolley only a few minutes earlier.

As he crossed the bridge the Negro halted him, asking, "How much you got?"

When Lester explained that he had no money, the Negro stepped back and shot one time.

Little and Burdett said Lester ran about 10 blocks to the home of a relative who lives near the old Candler warehouse in West End to seek aid. He was taken to Grady from there.

Suspect Shot In Probe Of Burglaries

Constitution
13 Ga.
9-25-49

One suspect was in Grady Hospital with a bullet wound in the chest yesterday as police investigated a half dozen burglaries found overnight. Atlanta, Ga.

Ptl. J. L. Morrow said he saw a Negro man laden with bundles near the Georgia Army Stores at 320 Peters St., S. W., and commanded the suspect to halt. Instead the Negro ran and Morrow fired.

After an extended chase Morrow gave up the search. He said he gathered up seven jackets and three pairs of shoes taken from the store as the Negro discarded them during the chase. Later Morrow received a call to Grady Hospital where he identified John Amos Peeples, 26, of 1047 Reynolds St., S. E., as the man he chased.

Wounded in the chest, Peeples was placed under police guard for suspicion of burglary.

In other raids yeggmen took $267 from Courtney's Restaurant at 857 West Peachtree St., N. E.; 34 cartons of cigarettes and $25 from the Georgia Avenue Drive-In at 208 Georgia Ave., S. E.; $150 from Hale's Cut Rate Drug Store, 259 Springdale Dr., N. E., and a quantity of cigarettes and other items from the Walker Super Market at 106 Georgia Ave., S. W.

Officials of Hirsch Brothers Store at 79 Peachtree St., N. E., discovered two locks pried from a roof hatch, Sgt. W. D. Anderson and Det. J. W. Elliott said. They added, evidently the burglars removed the locks in preparation for a raid later.

Year's 63rd Homicide Listed

Atlanta, Ga.
Daily World
Sat. 10-15-49
13 Ga.

Atlanta's sixty-third Negro homicide was recorded yesterday by city homicide detectives.

The victim was identified as Leroy Goodman, of a R-Humphries St., address, who was pronounced dead on the scene by Dr. Fred Dorman of Grady hospital.

Homicide Dets. J. M. Pack and J. W. Ellington said they arrested Johnny Allen, of 638 Foundry in connection with the shooting and booked him on a charge of suspicion of Murder.

According to Miss Sallie Lee Morgan, of 96 Thornton, S. W. and Mrs. Nettie Bell Allen, of 638 Foundry, the victim was shot while walking with thme along McDaniel Street. The eyewitnesses told detectives there had been no argument between the alleged assailant and the victim and that neither man had said a word to the other.

Low Income And Poverty Blamed For Homicides

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World
13 Ga.
Crime

(This is the fourth in a series of articles dealing with Negro homicides in Atlanta.)

BY ROBERT E. JOHNSON

Many attempts have been made to explain the high homicide rate among Atlanta Negroes. However, the lack of education, the low economic and social standards which generally prevail among Atlanta Negroes are apparently contributing factors in producing the high incidence of felony crimes.

Fri. 9-30-49

More Negroes than whites are forced to attend substandard schools where the facilities are often inadequate and the classrooms overcrowded. More Negroes than whites encounter difficulty getting decent jobs that pay more than a mere subsistence wage.

More Negro mothers than white mothers have to work or "hustle" a living in an unfriendly environment. This partially explains why, over the five-year period from January 1944 to May 1949, Negro women in Atlanta were charged with 24 per cent of the murder offenses committed against other Negroes, while white mothers were charged with only 4 per cent of the same offense against other whites. Many Negro mothers are so busy earning a meager living by taking care of white children that they have to neglect their own. Thus, they leave their children free to hang around community dives where they can pick up the tricks of the criminal trade —robbing, prostituting, "crap" shooting, pick-pocketing, bootlegging illegal whiskey and "killing N......s".

More Atlanta Negroes than whites live in slum dwellings which are cluttered and crowded with an overpopulated assortment of poverty-stricken family dwellers. It is not an uncommon occurrence to visit the scene of a homicide investigation and discover that the victim lived in a three-room shack occupied by a mother and two sons, a wife and husband, an unmarried woman, a married woman and her baby and common-law husband. The relationship may vary, but usually the number of dwellers prevail. Clearly, in such a habitat there is virtually no privacy, no ideals of chastity, no moral training, but plenty of cursing and friction.

This article makes no attempt to find a single-cause origin of criminal behavior among Negroes. It is obvious that many Negro homicide offenders often live in "bad" homes in a "bad" neighborhood and keep company with "bad" companions whose activities are limited by the absence of wholesome recreation and the ever presence of race segregation which further circumscribes their movement.

Racial discrimination is undoubtedly a factor in the Negro homicide rate. Because punishment is usually swift and severe when a Negro kills a white man, it is not surprising that a large number of Negro killings are the result of what sociologists call "channelized aggression." Statistical support for this statement is not complete, but there are some examples of this emotional displacement [illegible] in the often repeated saying: "It's safer to kill a Negro than a white man."

9-30-49

Many Negroes inwardly rebel against the segregated pattern of this city and find adjustment to the situation difficult. Because Negroes live in a democracy, the white castlike pattern of race superiority presents a problem. But working off their aggression on other Negroes does not solve the high incidence of race killings.

Diverse and varied motivations some of which have been mentioned make it impossible to apply a single concept to Negro homicides.

Meanwhile, a question is posed: "Do long sentences and the death penalty deter homicide criminals?"

The next article in the series will attempt an answer.

Stares at White Women Nets Him $50 Fine

SAVANNAH, Ga. — Festus Flipper, 16, who claims the sun made him blink, was fined $50 and given a probated sentence of ninety days for allegedly "making eyes" at several white women. The women charged that the boy stared and winked at them as they passed his father's shoe shop. They said his conduct scared them.

Georgia Grandmother Goes To Trial for Throwing Hot Water in Face of Planter

5-5-49

13 ga

Atlanta, (NNPA)—An aged Henry County woman, Mrs. Julia Johnson went on trial in the Henry County Superior Court last Monday, charged with throwing boiling hot water into the face of a Locust Grove planter who allegedly tried to force her to nurse his baby.

The 61-year old grandmother has been held in jail at McDonough, Georgia, for three months, pending trial of the case which was widely discussed last fall. She had been taken into custody, it was learned, from the Scottdale home to which agents of the Georgia Citizens Defense Committee had moved her family, after she had made a desperate and dramatic run for freedom following an alleged argument with W. W. Cleveland, Jr., at her isolated sharecropper shack on his plantation.

The elderly woman, at the time of the reported incident, was living with her daughters' family in one of the isolated farm shanties which Wofford Cleveland, Sr., provides for his tenants on the plantation located in Henry County.

Mrs. Johnson, whose youngest daughter formerly lived in Atlanta, told her pathetic story to the Georgia Citizens Defense Committee, of which the Rev. William Holmes Borders is chairman, after she had gained temporary freedom from the authorities.

She said that she had been helping her daughter, Clara, and the children pick cotton all day and was dead tired when the younger Cleveland came to the house and asked her to "come mind the baby" while he made a trip to Atlanta. She refused.

13

Mother of Fourteen

Later, she said, Cleveland came back and demanded in a gruff tone that she accompany him. "Mr. Cleveland got real mad," the mother of fourteen children and grandmother of five, told the Defense Committee.

When the farm overseer returned a third time, he "carried both an axe and a gun." At the time Mrs. Johnson was scalding a pot out with boiling hot water, the stove being located between herself and the door.

"He began cursing me and I threw hot water into his face and ran as fast as I could across the fields to the highway, she recalled.

A three-year old grandchild ran crying after her, and when Mrs. Johnson was captured in McDonough she was in stocking feet and held the child in her arms.

5-5-49

But for the help of Deputy Ira Jones, Mary Johnson, the Atlanta daughter, who is at present keeping the children at Scottdale, believes her mother [illegible] become the victim of mob violence.

13

Accepts Bond

Deputy Jones, described as a man friendly to the oppressed colored people of the county, took it upon himself to accept bond papers from an Atlanta company and release Mrs. Johnson just as darkness fell, and after the sheriff had refused to accept the papers all day.

Deputy Jones had warned the Atlanta Daughter, who went to McDonough to get her mother, "not to get in the dark but to stand in the light of the fillinge station until the Atlanta bus comes along."

The Georgia Citizens Defense Committee voted funds for Mrs. Johnson's temporary welfare and sent a representative with a transfer truck to remove her family's belongings—all but five pigs which Cleveland refused to permit the representative to take, he said, for a debt, Mrs. Johnson and her family were resettled in Scottdale. That was last November.

For some undisclosed reason, and unreported to the Defense Committee until last week, Mrs. Johnson was rearrested and lodged in the Henry County jail where she has been according to her daughter, for three months.

13 1949 Incest (California)

TENNIS PLAYER GETS 1-50 YEARS IN 'INCEST CASE

Tribune

Thurs.
12-1-49

Los Angeles, Nov. 30 (AP)—Leslie Jahn, 41, tennis professional convicted of incest involving his daughter, Tennis Star Laura Lou, 16, was sentenced today to one to 50 years in prison.

There was no formal plea for leniency from his daughter, altho she had told a probation officer from Miami, Fla., by telephone yesterday that she didn't want him to go to jail.

Laura Lou, former national girls' indoor singles champion, testified at a two day trial last month that her father had forced her into illicit relations since she was 10 years old. The story came out when she ran away last summer.

Jahn was cinvicted on three counts. The sentences of one to 50 years on each will run concurrently.

Chicago

Incest

Calif.

Courier Journal
Thurs.
12-8-49
Louisville, Ky.

Associated Press Wirephoto

At Waltham, Mass., Fred F. Bruckman, 52, uncle and foster father of a 15-year-old Alsatian war orphan, has been indicted on charges of incest and carnal abuse. The girl, Betty, hanged herself Sunday in despair.

13

13 1949 (Incest) North Carolina

Father Who Attacked His Own 6-Year-Old Girl Gets 14-16 Years

Afro-American

GREENVILLE, N.C. — Convicted of criminally assaulting his own six-year-old daughter, Henry Jones, last week. was sentenced to 14-16 years in State prison. The sentence was pronounced by Superior Court Judge R. Hunt Parker of Roanoke Rapids.

Sept. 17, 49

Severely censuring the man for his act, Judge Parker said that only the fact that the child was too young to understand" what was happening prevented Jones's conviction on a first-degree assault charge.

13 1949 Indiana

'Fair' Women, Escorts Held in Drive on 'White Prostitution'

(13) Ind. The Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

INDIANAPOLIS—(ANP)—An attorney, a former city councilman and two women social workers were arrested by police here recently in what was alleged to be a drive to "break up white prostitution in colored neighborhoods." Victims of the high pressure tactics were Mercer Mance, juvenile court judge and prominent Democratic politician; Dr. Lucian Merriwether, former GOP city councilman, and Misses Emily and Staheleen Stuart.

The four were sitting in a car in front of a restaurant eating sandwiches at the time of the incident. A squad car manned by white policemen stopped in front of their car and insisted that the women "must be white and therefore prostitutes." Despite their attempts to identify themselves, the policemen refused to listen and carted them off to jail in a patrol wagon. Bal. 5-21-49

During the explanation, one of the cops tore the coat of one woman, and the other woman lost her wallet when her handbag was emptied in the gutter. In court, the charges were dismissed and the officers apologized for their actions, saying "the girls looked white and we had orders to break up white prostitution in colored neighborhoods."

Chicago Slayer Caught by Tip To Sun-Times

13

Sun-Times

Chicago, Oct. 3 (U.P.)—The Chicago Sun-Times' "secret-witness" plan for solving murders was credited today with snaring a Waukegan bartender who admitted that he shot a man to death 10 years ago.

Sun. 10-4-49

It was the third murder solved since the newspaper instituted the plan.

Louisville, Ky.

The bartender, Frank Monaco, 50, admitted the slaying of Henry Izzo, 35, in 1939.

Monaco was trapped when a "secret witness" to the murder sent a letter to The Sun-Times that Monaco was working as a bartender at Waukegan, Ill.

According to the newspaper's plan, the writer left the letter unsigned, except for writing a random code number at the bottom. Then he tore off a corner, as instructed in published stories by the newspaper, and wrote the same number on the torn-off fragment.

When the newspaper received the tip, it turned the information over to Chief of Detectives Andrew Aitken, who assigned Lt. John Golden to follow it.

Monaco at first denied any knowledge of the shooting but later confessed. He said he shot Izzo in self-defense in a fight at a party in suburban Cicero.

But in the letter of information, The Sun-Times' secret tipster said Monaco forced Izzo's automobile to the curb after the party, resumed fighting with Izzo, and then shot him. Monaco disappeared after the shooting.

The "secret witness" is in line for a $5,000 reward from the newspapers if Monaco is convicted. His identity probably will never be known.

All he needs to do to claim the reward is to give the torn fragment from his original letter to an intermediary, such as his parish priest, who will take it to The Sun-Times. If the torn edge matches that of the letter and the random code number is identical with that on the letter, The Sun-Times will give the intermediary the reward to hand over to the tipster.

Identify One Of Mob Which Beat 3 Youths

Defender

Chicago, Ill

One of 12 white hoodlums who attacked and beat three youths, one of them a clergyman's son, at 51st and Halsted Monday has been identified.

Sat. 5-28-49

He is William Wren, 21, of 931 W. 51st, who was charged by police with assault and robbery. So far, he has refused to name other members of the gang.

13 [illegible]

Wren was arrested when he was identified by Edward Emerson, 23, of 311 E. 49th st., as one of the hoodlums who had beaten him and Jesse Reddicks, Jr., 24, of 1211 W. 112th pl., the minister's son, and Floyd Tolen 23, of 3201 W. 139th pl., Robbins.

Assault & Battery

Emerson suffered injury to his right arm. Reddick, who was knocked unconscious, suffered a discolored eye and injuries to his abdomen and Tolen bruises of the lips and abrasions of the arm and legs. They were treated at Evangelical hospital.

Waiting For Streetcar

Sgt. John Trinks said the men were attacked as they stood on the corner waiting for a south bound Halsted street car. They had taken a 51st st. bus to Halsted. Emerson was standing on the corner before Reddick and Tolen arrived on the following bus with two ladies they were escorting home.

Sgt. Trinks said Reddick told him that he and Tolen had left a radio broadcast at the St. Paul Church of God in Christ with Miss Valanda Clements, 20, of 1344 W. 110th st., and Miss Lillian Baker, 16, of 1110 W. 111th st.

While standing on the corner, Reddick related that three men between the ages of 17 and 21 approached him and Tolen and said:

"You are in the wrong neighborhood. No street cars are running this time of night."

Reddick Defends Himself

With that statement, Reddick said the men swung at him, but he stepped aside and fought back. As he defended himself Reddick explained his attackers increased to about 12.

5-28-49

"The 12 ganged me," said Reddick. "Three were beating Tolen."

Realizing he was putting up a good fight, the hoodlums, Reddick added, stopped their attack on Tolen and all of them ganged up on him.

Sgt. Trinks said the hoodlums tore Reddick's clothes off, kicked him in the stomach and face until Reddick fell to the street unconscious. While he was "down and out," Reddick was robbed of his watch and $10, Trinks added.

$13,099 in Shoe

[TRIBUNE Photo]

Chicago, Ill

Jack Bradley watches as Detective James Nash holds shoe and bag that contained $13,099.

Tribune

Wabash av. police found yesterday what they are sure is the richest shoe in the world when they arrested Jack Bradley, alias Ollie Davis, 28, a Negro, in his room at 409 Oakwood blvd.

13 [illegible]

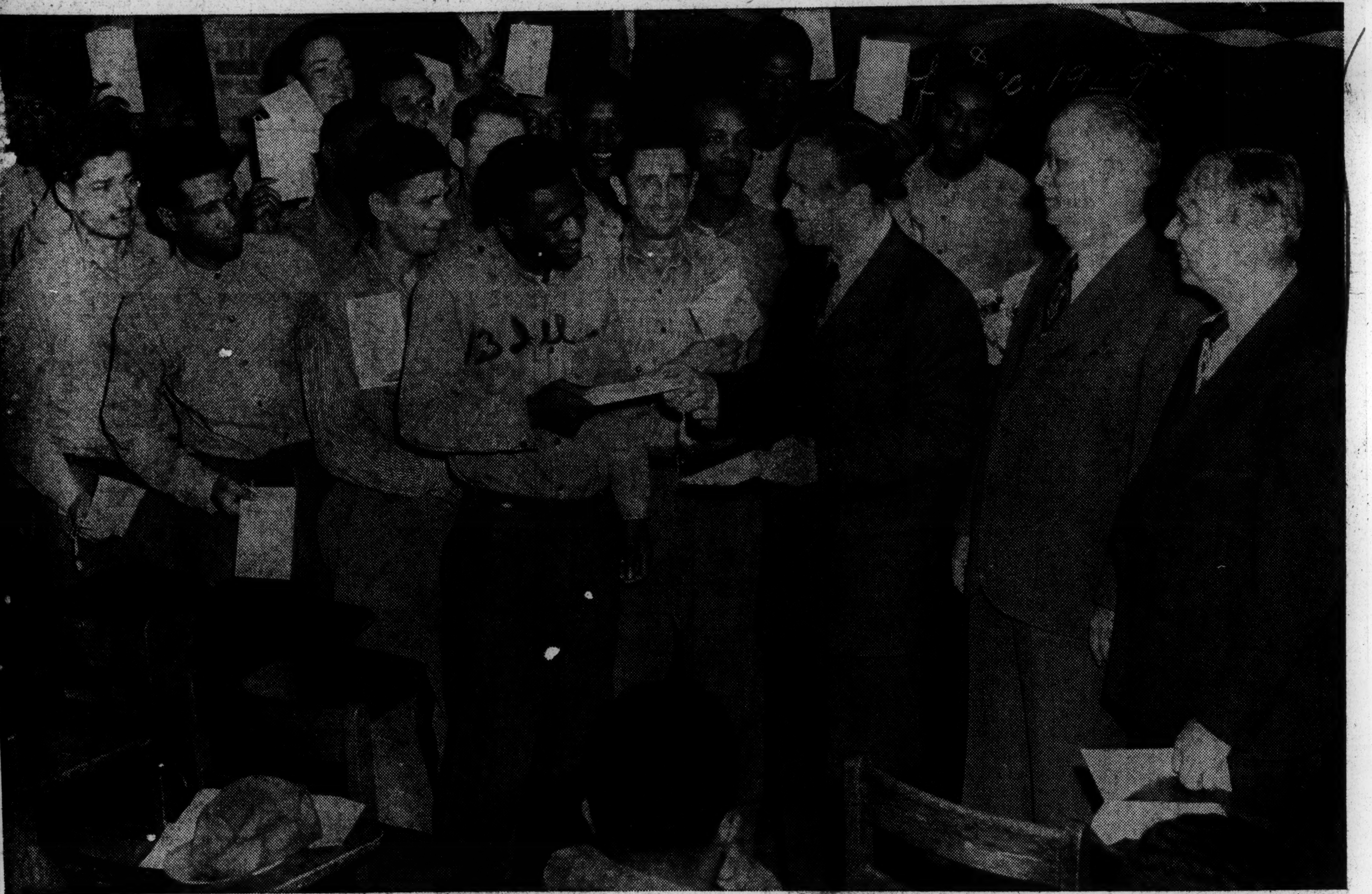
It contained $13,099 in bills of various denominations.

Nov. 11-8-49

Asked by Sgt. James Foster and Detectives Wilbur Higgins and James Nash where he got so much money, Bradley explained that he broke open a safe in Racine, Wis. early Saturday. Inquiry with Racine police revealed that a thief or thieves had broken into as teel cabinet in the office of the Consumers Iron and Steel company there, and had stolen between $13,000 and $14,000.

Bradley insisted that he worked alone on the theft, and that he spent some of the money Sunday buying new clothes in the Maxwell st. market. He planned to buy a car, too, he said. He put the money in the shoe because he thought it would be as safe there as anywhere else, he said. Police arrested Bradley thru a tip.

Hold Grammar School Graduation for Stateville Convicts



Tribune Wed. 12-28-49

[TRIBUNE Photo]

L. Bottino, superintendent of Will county schools; Assistant Warden C. D. Atherton, and Prof. W. L. Davies, head of prison school (left to right, in business suits), handing out diplomas to graduates of grammar school conducted within Stateville's walls. Diplomas went to 66 convicts.

13 1949

Kentucky

Negro Bishop Is Sentenced To 2½ Years for Mail Theft

Courier Jour. 10-25-49 Louisville Ky

13 Ky

Paducah Pastor Pleads Guilty In Federal Court

Paducah, Ky., Oct. 24 (AP)—Bishop Arthur V. Ware, Negro minister here, was sentenced to 2½ years' imprisonment today in United States Court here on a charge of mail theft.

Ware, who worked for the Post Office here 19 years, pleaded guilty

In a statement read in court by Assistant District Attorney John Fulton, the minister purportedly admitted stealing about $4,450 from first-class mail between September, 1946, and the time of his arrest last April.

The cash thefts, Fulton told Federal Judge Roy Shelbourne, averaged about $35 a week during the period.

When Ware was arrested he had in his possession a dollar bill marked by Post Office investigators and planted in a mail case, officials said.

Ware told authorities he stole several letters on the night before hi sarrest, last April 29. He said he wrapped the letters in newspapers and took them to the Post Office basement, where he removed an undetermined sum of money.

Ware was a custodian at the Post Office. He usually cleaned the lobby and other parts of the building each night.

Preceding his arrest, Ware was pastor of the Church of The Living God, Pillar and Ground of The Truth. He became well known here through weekly religious radio broadcasts.

Ware, who pleaded for a probated sentence, said he began taking money from the mails when expenses in connection with his drive to construct a new church ran higher than expected. He said he tithed and gave $15 a month extra to the church during the period covered in the indictment.

In other action as the fall term of court opened:

Roy Snyder, last of 20 men charged with operating a huge car-theft ring with headquarters at Golden Pond, pleaded not guilty. He will be tried later in the term.

Cases of all the other defendants have been disposed of.

Stolen Silverware Valued At $5,000 Is Recovered

Courier-Journal

Police Find Frankfort Loot In Cellar Here

13 Ky

Approximately $5,000 worth of silverware stolen from a Frankfort home was recovered by detectives in a basement here yesterday.

A Louisville Negro, James H. Thurman, 27, was held on a vagrancy charge to await the arrival today of Frankfort police.

Detectives Tom Burch and Arthur Wallmeyer went to Thurman's home, 1710 W. Chestnut at noon yesterday and arrested him when he tried to flee. Fifty pounds of silver service were found in the basement of the home.

Sat. 12-10-49

Frankfort Police Chief Henry Morrow said the loot was taken last week end from the home of Charles Hoge, who lives on River View Street there. Hoge and his family were away from home Saturday, Sunday, and Monday.

Thurman told police he entered the home through a rear window Saturday. He said he brought the loot to Louisville on a bus Wednesday.

Louisville Ky

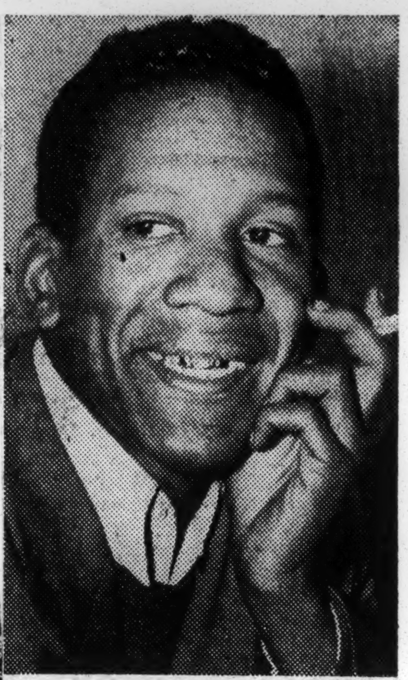
Three youths were arrested yesterday on charges of stealig from U. S. mails. Police said the trio stole an unestimated number of checks from mailboxes in the South End during the last several months.

They were slated as Donald R. Williams, 21, of 1152 Garvin Place; Charles Adams, 19, of 1426 Haskin, and Joseph F. Smith, 18, of 1421 S. Floyd.

Some of the checks were cashed after the youths forged the payees' names, according to police. They will be arraigned in Federal Court.

Courier-Journal Photo

SILVERWARE stolen from a Frankfort home is examined by Detective Lt. Ellis Joseph, center, and two detectives, Tom Burch, left, and Arthur Wallmeyer.



JAMES H. THURMAN
Police Visit Home

NEGRO KIDNAPING LAID TO 3 IN LYNCHING CASE

New York Times
New York, New York

OPELOUSAS, La., March 7 (UP)—Sheriff Clayton Guilbeau today charged three men, including a well-to-do former deputy sheriff, with kidnapping a Negro from the St. Landry Parish Prison for a lynching mob.

13

The Negro, Edward Honeycutt, 25 years old, was taken to the Atchafalaya River levee near Krotz Springs, La., early Sunday and dumped out to wait for execution. While the three leaders of the mob matched coins to see who would execute him, Honeycutt jumped into the river and escaped, with bullets whistling around him.

Mar. 9-49

Sheriff Guilbeau filed kidnapping charges against Maxile Savoy, Aeriel Ledoux and Edward Miller. Savoy owns a rice plantation and was a deputy sheriff under E. J. Doucet, whom Guilbeau succeeded last spring.

District Judge Lessley Gardiner set bond at $5,000 each for the three men.

The charges said nothing about an attempted lynching. After jumping into the river, Honeycutt, who has confessed to an attack on a white woman, was rescued by a fisherman. Charles Devillier, the town marshal of Krotz Springs, rearrested Honeycutt.

Sheriff Guilbeau said there were "several carloads" of men in the mob and he was trying to trace the rest of them.

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2 Get 99-Year Terms For Kidnaping Woman

Courier Journal
Louisville, Kentucky
Thur. 4-14-49
13

Cincinnati, April 13 (AP)—Two Negroes who kidnaped a woman here, drove into Kentucky, and left her tied to a tree near La Grange, Ky., were each sentenced to 99 years in prison in Federal Court today.

George Oliver, 26, and Morris Thomas, 29, pleaded guilty of kidnaping under the Lindbergh Law. The sentence was said to be the most severe ever imposed in Cincinnati Federal Court.

13

The two men admitted kidnaping Mrs. Mucie Pott, widowed University of Cincinnati night school student, on April 1 while she was locking her automobile in downtown Cincinnati.

With the woman in the back seat of the car, the Negroes drove into Kentucky. They stopped near La Grange, beat Mrs. Pott with a pistol, stripped her to her girdle and tied her up with her own stockings.

13

Oliver and Thomas were arrested the next day in Ohio when they tried to sell Mrs. Pott's car.

Federal Judge Druffel in sentencing the pair told them that had the jury decided on the death penalty "I would have had no hesitancy in imposing it."

J. M. Hinton Freed After Four Hours

Journal & Guide
Norfolk Virginia
13

Rights Crusader Held In Country By Unknown Men

Sat. 4-30-49

COLUMBIA, S. C.—James M. Hinton, a leader of South Carolina's fight for first-class citizenship, was whisked away from his boarding place at the Ball residence, 1409 Wrightsboro road, Augusta, Ga., by unknown persons about 10:30 p. m., Thursday.

Mr. Hinton returned to his residence about four hours later, unharmed. He had been carried into the country by the abductors, who, he reported, stated: "This is the wrong nigger."

In a personal interview with Mrs. Modjeska Montieth Simkins, secretary of the South Carolina NAACP Conference and of that organization's legal defense fund, Mr. Hinton said that he had retired about 8:30. Around 10:30, Mrs. Ball, answering a knock and was told through the door that the inquirers wanted to see the man who owned the car parked outside as it had been struck.

Sat. 4-30-49

Hinton went to the door clad only in his nightclothes. He immediately was grabbed by one man and overpowered by others and rushed to a car which was believed to have been followed by at least one other.

NEIGHBORS AIDED

Although there was a driving rain at the time, white neighbors who heard Mr. Hinton's cries and saw him being carried away, immediately called police. Radio cars were at the home within five minutes before Mrs. Ball could get a call through.

A check of the premises showed a Spanish type revolver in the gutter and a radio repair service ticket. Mr. Hinton, asked later by officials if the pistol was his property, replied that he did not own a weapon.

He said that he was driven at least nine miles into the country and over into Columbia county, off the paved road and far down a dirt road. At least one car was at the scene. He said he believes that the other cars were in the immediate vicinity, but could not say positively because of the heavy darkness and the driving rain.

He says that a man at the scene threw a flashlight in his face and said, "This is the wrong nigger." He was told to lie down on his stomach as they drove away and to get back as best he could.

WALKED SIX MILES

Hinton walked six miles until overtaken by a bus whose driver finally consented to bring him into Augusta. He believes that the immediate radio flashes on the abduction were picked up by one of the cars and that the men took "cold feet."

Sat. 4-30-49

According to early information received in Columbia, presumably through police reports made to local police officials, there had been talk of a Negro having struck a white man's car far out in the country. He had left the scene and had been traced to Hinton's residence. This and the statement that Hinton's car was struck outside were pure subterfuge.

When Columbia NAACP officials received the information at midnight, immediate contact was made with city police officials, the governor and his constabulary, The State (daily paper), the Associated Press, and Thurgood Marshall, NAACP attorney, then in Washington. The FBI swung immediately into action. However, their services in the case are limited by the fact that Mr. Hinton was not carried over the Georgia line.

Mr. Hinton did not return to his residence until four hours later.

GOOD POLICE WORK

High praise has been given Columbia and S. C. law enforcement officials for the immediate interest and attention they gave the case. There were hundreds of telephone calls, many of them from white admirers of Mr. Hinton.

The upsurge within the Negro population was indescribable. It was not until late morning news flashes confirmed his safe return that an easing of the the tension among them could be detected. Several cars of Negroes were preparing to leave for Augusta when the news came about three o'clock that he had returned.

Although there is difference of opinion as to whether the abductors were from South Carolina or Georgia, it is thought that the appearance of Thurgood Marshall before the Georgia State Teachers Association a short while ago, and the decision of that body to begin legal action against inequalities focused attention on Mr. Hinton who though maintaining his residence in Columbia where formerly he was district manager of the Pilgrim Life Insurance Company, is now employed in the home office in Augusta and returns to Columbia on weekends.

Speaking extemporaneously before a Columbia audience on Friday evening where W. Lester Banks, Virginia State NAACP executive secretary had made the address of the evening, Mr. Hinton electrified his audience by saying, "I want to assure you that whatever happened last night has in no measure lessened my intention to carry out the fight for first-rate citizenship that we have begun in South Carolina. I counted the cost long ago, and now, as then, whatever comes, I am prepared for it knowing that I have only one life to give in the cause for freedom."

Sat. 4-30-49

Mr. Hinton worked under the protection of the FBI on Friday and Saturday and has been given protection for as long as he and the department think that protection is necessary.

Under Hinton's leadership as president of the South Carolina conference of the NAACP, the Negroes carried their fight into the federal courts several times, the fight against the "white primary" reaching the U. S. Supreme Court as a result of the now famous Waring decision in 1947 against the South Carolina machine Democrats.

The Kidnapping Of Hinton

The kidnapping of James Hinton, president of South Carolina branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, on Friday, in Augusta, Georgia, by a group of white men, is a clear sign that the forces of lawlessness are still doing business as usual.

It is true that no apparent serious physical harm was committed against the victim, but the danger to the decent people of Georgia, and to the badly damaged name of Georgia is incalcuable.

Daily World

And what is more important, Mr. Hinton reports that his abduction was "because of his militant stand for equal educational opportunities for Negroes, and various other civic activities, many of which have been carried out in Georgia."

Atlanta, Ga.

The pattern violence is unmarred. The functions of the law are being usurped by the mob. Officers of the law and good citizens must stand by while the bands of shameful men work their evil will.

Tue. 4-26-49

Such incidents are not uplanned, but are designed by skilful minds and hands to intimidate progressive leadership within the race, and to discourage the Negro's mighty fight for that which should be his without a fight.

Knowing Mr. Hinton, as we do, we are sure that his abductors did not succeed in frightening him, nor in causing him to lose faith in the cause to which he is dedicated. It will take more than intimidation to halt the Negro's most certain victory against those who dispute with him the passage toward his goal.

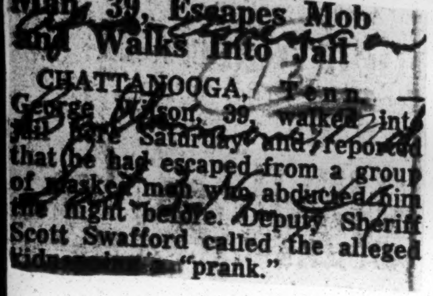
4-26-49

It is gratifying to note the reaction to this outrage against Mr. Hinton on the part of the Atlantans who have offered rewards that total $1800, for the apprehension and convictions of the mobsters. This is as it should be. Every Negro in Georgia and South Carolina should give his sympathy and support to this able, courageous, sincere laeder.

This paper is happy to be among those offering awards for the punishment of those who are responsible for this unwarranted attack against a Negro leader.

13 1949

Kidnapping (Tennessee)



Man, 39, Escapes Mob and Walks Into Jail

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. — George Wilson, 39, walked into jail here Saturday and reported that he had escaped from a group of masked men who abducted him the night before. Deputy Sheriff Scott Swafford called the alleged [redacted] "prank."

Man Held on Federal
Holdup,Assault Charge

Shreveport,La. June 18-(AP) Federal charges of robbing a postoffice and assaulting the postmistress have been filed here against an El Dorado,Ark., Negro, Fred Kendrix,22,admitted to arresting officers in El Dorado Thursday and Tuesday night robbery and slugging of Mrs. Alice Landers 68, postmistress at Oakland,La. He was brought to Louisiana "because feeling is running pretty high," Postal inspector Paul Waddell said.

News
Birmingham,Ala.
June 18,1949

13 1949 Louisiana

Sheriff Faces $16,734 Suit

Afro American

Oct-10-8-49

La. Farmer Claims 3 Burned His Home

Baltimore, Md.

NEW ORLEANS (ANP)—Because they illegally entered his home, set fire to his dwelling and made him suffer damages to the amount of $16,734, Dotson Franklin, colored tenant farmer of Ascension parish, has named a deputy sheriff and two other accomplices in a damage suit which was filed in the Federal District Court last week.

Arson

Named by the plaintiff were Sheriff Hickley Waguespack, Burris Gautreaux, a deputy, William (Hill) Persac, who allegedly accompanied Gautreaux on the search, and the National Surety Corporation of New York which bonded the sheriff.

Franklin states in his petition that at the time of the unlawful, illegal, and unwarranted entry, search and trespass, he was two and one-half mlies away in the field plowing, and that his wife and three children were out of town.

Franklin states that four or five minutes after the illegal entry by the accused, the house burst into flames and burned to the ground. The five-room house, a one-room annex, a spacious barn, poultry and other farm essentials were completely destroyed.

No motive for the firing of Franklin's home has been established, but a survey of the court record discloses that his circumstances were doubtlessly envied by poor whites in the parish.

CHARGE OF POLICE BEATING IS PROBED

Times-Picayune

Maj. Blancher Studies Case of 'Loitering' Prisoner

13e

New Orleans, La.

A charge by Samuel Spears, Negro, 40, 3831 Duplessis, that he was beaten while in police custody, was under investigation Monday by Maj. Albert P. Blancher, commander of police precinct stations.

Times 4-19-49

Spears was arrested at Melpomene and Freret on April 10 and booked at the Second Precinct police station with refusing a police officer's order to move on, resisting arrest, insulting and abusing a police officer.

Blancher said while Spears was being booked at the precinct station, he allegedly grabbed the police doorman, cursed and abused him and attempted to throw him to the floor. He was additionally booked with disturbing the peace by assault on a police officer and disturbing the peace in a police station.

The arresting officers, patrolmen John Cochran and Thomas Bell, said Spears was loitering near a booth manned by members of the Progressive party of Louisiana near the intersection. When they instructed him to move on, they said, he began cursing and reviling them.

The organization, which operates the booth to teach prospective voters how to register, charged that Spears was "manhandled" by the officers when he approached the booth to "find out what it (the booth) was all about." The organization charged that Spears was treated roughly and thrown into the rear of a police squad car when he asked the police officers why he was being ordered to move on.

Spears charged he was beaten in the precinct police station and held without bail and incommunicado. He appeared in municipal court on April 12, pleaded not guilty and was released on a $50 bond. He is scheduled to go on trial before Judge Paul Garofalo on April 26.

Maj. Blancher said an investigation of Spears' charge has been conducted by Capt. William Clark, commander of the Second Precinct, and that "the evidence does not justify the charge." Capt. Clark said the officers denied beating Spears.

Times 4-19-49

Maj. Blancher described Spears as "an advocate of civil rights" with a record of five arrests for disturbing the peace, loitering and refusing to move on. He was arrested on March 9, 1946, for disturbing the peace on a New Orleans Public Service, Inc., bus after he became engaged in an argument with the driver and allegedly struck him, police said.

Negro Bystander Brutally Beaten By Louisiana Cops

Worker, New York, N.Y.

Sun. 5-1-49

13e

NEW ORLEANS, La.—On Sunday, April 10, the Young Progressives conducted an outdoor registration school at the corner of Melpomene and Freret. At a table on the sidewalk they had literature and posters. Three or four attendants explained to inquirers what they had to do in order to register and vote.

A squad car pulled up, and the two policemen in it growled: "What you tryin' to do, teach these people rights?" (One policeman's badge was No. 665.) When they asked Frank Ervin, white student at the table, if he were there alone, he said "Yes" to protect his three Negro co-workers.

Samuel Spears, 40, a Negro resident of the neighborhood, living at 3831 Duplessis St., stopped at the table to look at the display. Spears is not a member of the Progressive Party, and was a complete stranger to the Young Progressives at the outdoor booth.

One of the cops gruffly told Spears to "move on," then the other cop said, "Kick that n---r!" Spears, about to move on, looked around. The first cop grabbed him by the collar, and Spears put up his hand to protect his sunglasses, expecting a blow.

"Oh, so you're resistin' arrest, hey?" the cop said.

"I ain't resistin' arrest, officer," Speers said. 5-1-49

The Young Progressives present testify that Spears did not resist or fight back. He is a small man, about 5 ft. 6 in. in height and weighing about 142 pounds.

Miss Judy Smith, one of the people in charge, phoned the executive secretary of the C. R. C. He at once tried every method to save the man from the beating that we have come to expect whenever the police arrest a Negro, whatever the cause. The desk sergeant at Precinct 2 said Spears had not yet been booked.

Meanwhile Mrs. Samuel Spears tried to get help from Henry Hennessey, proprietor of the Hennessey Optical Goods concern, 427 Penn St., where her husband had been employed as a porter for more than two years. Finally, Mr. Hennessey went down to the Second Precinct and heard the police side of the case. His action was to fire Spears forthwith.

As Spears tells the story, the two arresting officers started to beat him as soon as they got him in the precinct. The desk sergeant interupted the beating long enough to take Spears' name and address, and other routine questions. Then the beating was resumed. Five policemen took part. "A policeman hit me with a billy, and then another policeman hit me. They hit me from behind, from the side, from everywhere. They knocked me down and kicked me. The desk sergeant kicked me in the chin. Then they stomped on me."

Then the guardians of the law, Spears says, took him up to a cell and left him there, raw and bleeding, without treatment, till the next day. At 11:15 a.m. Tureaud, a lawyer, got him paroled. At once Spears was taken to Charity Hospital, examined and X-rayed, and it was found that in addition to bruises and contusions and a cut chin, he had a burst ear drum.

Priest Accuses Assumption Sheriff of Beating White, Negro Prisoners

Times-Picayune

(The Associated Press)

Napoleonville, La., Sept. 16—A Catholic priest said Friday that Negroes of Assumption parish "live in terror" because of "indiscriminate beatings of white and black (prisoners) alike" by Sheriff Fernand Richard.

Sheriff Richard denied the accusations, saying simply that they "are false."

The accusations were made by the Rev. Harry J. Maloney, S. S. F. of St. Benedict the Moor church, after a civil suit was filed in 23rd Judicial District court. The suit charges the sheriff slapped a Negro woman and struck her husband, knocking him down.

Cleveland A. Blanchard, attorney who filed the suit, said it asks $6000 damages for Julius and Ruth Cheatham, Negro parishioners of St. Benedict the Moor church.

Oct. 9-17-49

He said it alleges that Sheriff Richard slapped the woman twice with his hand and threatened to use a whip while questioning her about a stolen pocketbook. He said it also charges the sheriff struck her husband with his fist, knocking him down, "on or about Oct. 19, 1948."

New Orleans, La.

The priest said—and Sheriff Richard denied—that the sheriff threatened the priest in the parish courtroom "right in front of the judge."

Body of Man Found Dead in Cell to Be Exhumed

Afro-American 13e

Sat. 8-13-49 La

Union Leader to Demand Autopsy to Learn How Suspect in Priest's Murder Met Death

NEW ORLEANS, La. (ANP)—The exhuming of the body of Frank Bates, 42-year-old Negro longshoreman who was found dead with two broken ribs in a prison cell here two weeks ago, seems certain.

Baltimore

Dave A. Dennis, president of the General Longshore Workers (AFL), Local No. 1419, made this statement last week regarding Bates, who was in jail on the charge of killing a priest with a baling hook while the latter was kneeling in prayer.

According to Mr. Dennis, a number of physicians will be called in to make a close study of the coroner's report in an effort to determine how Bates' ribs were broken and in what manner he received the numerous body bruises referred to in the autopsy.

Grand Jury Indicts No One

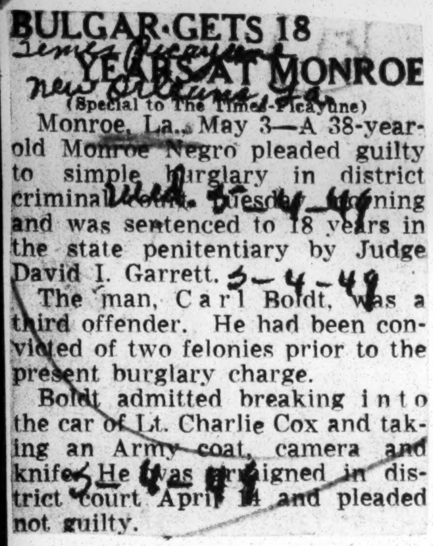
The grand jury which met last week to hear testimony in connection with Bates' death said, that there was not sufficient evidence presented to them to warrant the indictment of any one.

Testifying before the grand jury were Sheriff John J. Grosch Sr., Warden James Meridith and three desperate colored felons who were cellmates of Bates. One of the felons, Burnell Vaughn, was accused of stabbing a man to death. The other, Alfred Bonner, is charged with murder.

The latter criminal engaged in a fist fight with Bates, according to Grosch. However, there was no mention made of just how serious the encounter was.

13 1949

Louisiana



BULGAR GETS 18 YEARS AT MONROE

Times Picayune
New Orleans, La.

(Special to The Times-Picayune)

Monroe, La., May 3—A 38-year-old Monroe Negro pleaded guilty to simple burglary in district criminal court Tuesday morning and was sentenced to 18 years in the state penitentiary by Judge David I. Garrett.

Wed. 5-4-49

5-4-49

The man, Carl Boldt, was a third offender. He had been convicted of two felonies prior to the present burglary charge.

Boldt admitted breaking into the car of Lt. Charlie Cox and taking an Army coat, camera and knife. He was arraigned in district court April 14 and pleaded not guilty.

5-4-49

Accused On Morals Count, Man Kills Self

13 [illegible] Md

News

JEFFERSON, Md., Oct. 17—(AP)—Harold W. Carder, 36, shot himself to death early today as state police tried to break in the door of his barricaded bedroom to arrest him on a charge of raping his 14-year-old daughter.

State Police Capt. Charles W. Magaha said Carder's wife and daughter swore out the warrant after doctors at Frederick Memorial Hospital examined the girl and found she had been raped.

News 10-17-49

When three state troopers went to Carder's home, he ran upstairs and locked and barricaded the door. As the troopers tried to force their way in, he shot himself with a .22 caliber target pistol.

A freight conductor with the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, Carder was the father of four children.

SAYS SHE MULLED SUICIDE:

Jury Convicts Wife in Officer's Slaying

Afro-American [illegible]

PHILADELPHIA

Mrs. Hattie Parrott, 29, who said she shot her policeman-husband to death while contemplating suicide, was convicted of voluntary manslaughter, Thursday, by a Quarter Sessions Court Jury, which recommended mercy.

Judge Louis E. Levinthal deferred sentencing her pending argument for a new trial by her counsel, Irving Katz, and released her in $3,000 bail.

[illegible] 11-5-49

Assistant District Attorney Theodore Reimel, who had pressed for a conviction of first-degree murder in the case, protested against the setting of bail.

Used Plea Against Her

[illegible]

He pointed to Mrs. Parrott's testimony that she had been thinking of killing herself and said that her freedom would give her an opportunity to cary out any designs she may have against her life.

Judge Levinthal, when setting bail, assured Mrs. Parrott that "you need not be in terror." He said she would most likely be sent to prison if the request for a new trial is denied, but added that "the court will note the jury's recommendation of leniency."

13 [illegible]

Mrs. Parrott, the mother of four children, was charged with using the service revolver of her husband, Cames, 34, to take his life in their home at 507 N. Allison St., last July 11.

Strife-Torn Home

The testimony brought out that domestic strife had just about wrecked the couple's home. Mrs. Parrott accused her husband of infidelity and said he wanted to force her out of the house to make room for a young woman whom he had made pregnant.

On the day of the slaying, Mrs. Parrott said, her husband, a patrolman attached to the 39th St. and Lancaster Ave. station, came home early in the morning and told her he wanted her out of the house by noon.

As the morning wore on, she said, she became despondent and desperate. Noon came and went and and finally, she said, she decided to pack up and leave.

Sight of Gun Planted Ideas

She went upstairs to a bedroom and saw her husband's gun on a bed. It was then, she asserted, that she decided to kill herself.

She grabbed the gun, according to her testimony, and walked out of the room past the bathroom, where her husband was bathing. She had stopped at the head of the stairway, she said, and was standing there when her husband stepped out of the bathroom and bellowed, "Are you still here?"

Mrs. Parrott, who said she was in an highly-agitated state of mind at the time, testified that she whirled to face the man and accidentally discharged the gun. The bullet struck Parrott in the left side and proved fatal.

Deliberation Charged

Reimel, pointing out the defense contention that Mrs. Parrott's unhappy domestic life had driven her to the brink of murder, said the same circumstances could have forced her to commit murder.

He charged that Mrs. Parrott, armed with the weapon, had stationed herself several feet from the bathroom door with the intentions of shooting Parrott as he stepped from the bathroom. The shooting, he said, was "willful, deliberate and premeditated."

13 1949 Narcotics (Illinois)

72 Addicts, Peddlers Nabbed In 4 Months

Chicago police swooped down on the Congo Lounge, popular southside nightery, last Thursday night, and ordered it closed in an effort to check the increasing use of narcotics by 'teen-agers who frequented the night club.

The police action resulted from investigation of the death from over-dose of "dope" of four young people, two of them within the last week. The most recent fatality from dope allegedly purchased from peddlers who frequented the Congo was that of 18-year-old Naomi Leaner, daughter of the Chicago radio disc-jockey Al Benson. The three other young people who have been fatally stricken as a result of overdosages of dope were Walter Keathing, 22; Stanley Stark, a 13-year-old grade school boy, and 18-year-old Charles Thompson.

Police report that a group of young teen-agers have been introduced to the drug habit by peddlers who frequented the Congo, and who conducted dope parties in rooms in the hotel above.

Captain Kinzie Bluitt of the Wabash avenue station said the license of the Congo had been revoked by the mayor because of the numerous arrests of narcotic addicts and peddlers in and around the club.

Police have arrested 72 dope addicts and peddlers in or near the Congo Lounge during the past four months, with 12 additional arrests in the Congo hotel above the night club. Marijuana cigarettes, cocaine, and opium are all reported to have been sold to minors in the dope traffic which has officials and parents on the southside up in arms over the growth of this vice among the teen-age thrill seekers.

B Narco

Defender
Chicago
Ill
Sat
8-6-49

13 1949

North Carolina

CAFE OWNER SHOOTS INTO CROWD, FELLS NEGRO WOMAN

Daily worker
New York

Special to the Daily Worker

WINSTON-SALEM, N. C. July 4. – Miss Hattie Cook, 28-year-old Negro woman, of High Point, N.C., was shot by a white cafe operator, O. L. Werst, Friday night and critically wounded.

Jul. 7-5-49

13

Attending a dance of the Shriners in Winston-Salem, Miss Cook and a group of others mistakenly entered the hallway of Werst's apartment, which adjoins the dance hall he leases. Werst ran for his gun and fired into a hallway packed with Negro people. Miss Cook fell, wounded.

The Carolina district of the Communist Party sent the following protest to Mayor Kurfees, Chief of Police Gold and the Winston-Salem **Journal**:

"This act of a Ku Klux-minded person is the fruit of KKK violence in south and legal lynchings. The court frameup death sentences of the two Daniel youths in Greenville, N. C., and the seven Negro men in Martinsville, Va., encourage such illegal violence.

7-5-49

"We condemn the reporting of episode by the Winston-Salem **Journal** and the **Sentinal** as a deliberate effort to provoke race riot by trying to inflame tempers of Negro and white citizens. We call on the mayor, the police chief and press of Winston-Salem to expose the KKK character of the shooting and to promise full prosecution, thereby preventing agents of big companies from using this to divide Negro and white workers and to create trouble."

Accuses Father Of Assault

13 incest

GREENVILLE, N. C. — (ANP) — Six-year-old Addie Ruth Jones told police here Wednesday night that her father, John H. Jones, 31-year-old laborer, took her to a lonely spot near a fertilizer factory and abused her. Police are holding Jones on a charge of criminally assaulting his daughter.

Atlanta Ga.

She said he threatened to kill her if she told about the attack, but that she went home and told her foster grandmother, Mrs. Annie Rountree, anyway.

Daily World

Dr. J. A. Battle examined the girl and found she had been painfully injured and in need of medical attention. The girl's mother was visiting in Charlotte.

Jun. 10-6-49

When picked up, Jones' clothes were bloody. He is said to have a long police record. He served a five year term in prison for larceny, was convicted several times for assault drunkenness, armed robbery, and with a deadly weapon, vagrancy, assaulting a female.

50 Crimes Of Intimidation Reported By Southern Council

Montgomery Advertiser

Montgomery Ala

13

ATLANTA, April 16 — (AP) — The Southern Regional Council today listed 50 crimes of intimidation last year in pointing to a "pattern of violence" in the South.

Of the 50 crimes listed, 29 of them were committed in Georgia.

And "the list is not intended to be all-inclusive; many more reported incidents might have been included," the council said.

Including both whites and Negroes, the council is made up of newspapermen and representatives from the fields of religion, education, business, and the professions.

Jun-4-17-49

Crimes and intimidations listed by the council in its publication "New South" ranged from a lynching and shootings to floggings and cross burnings.

Through March 6 of this year, 19 such crimes were reported—seven of them in Alabama and five in Georgia.

The council took its reports from Southern white newspapers.

"The decline in the number of lynchings in recent years has been rightfully hailed as an important advançe in the right of everyone to be secure in his person," the council said.

"But it should be remembered that a lynching is only an extreme example of a general lack of regard for the individual.

"The climate which produces lynchings is one of daily insult, intimidation, and the lesser forms of violence, directed against a whole segment of the population.

"Climate Still Exists"

"The prevalence of such incidents as those listed shows that such a climate still exists."

Lawlessness is punished swiftly in much of the South, the council continued, "but where this is not true, the failure is one of government.

"Legislators and even governors refuse to act; city and county officials enter into silent conspiracy with terroristic elements; sheriffs shrug off their responsibilities; policemen degrade the law they are sworn to enforce."

The council said an example of "the failure . . . to take measures against lawlessness" was the tabling of a bill to unmask the Ku Klux Klan by the Georgia House of Representatives.

The Klan is "not directly responsible for all the acts of mob violence which occur. Its importance lies in the support it lends to a pattern of lawlessness."

Jun-4-17-49

More Pay for Police

What can be done about "the growing tendency of irresponsible individuals and groups who set themselves up as judge, jury, and executioner"?

Better paid and better trained policemen will help, the council said. A more earnest effort to meet the basic needs of people, in housing, health care, education, and public services, would do much "to remove the tensions that breed violence."

But, most urgently needed, the council concluded, is "strong public sentiment in support of legal procedures."

13 1949 Texas

Cops Spread Terror In Texas Ghettos

The Worker Sun. 10-2-49

13

SAN ANTONIO, Tex.—The Police Department has launched a widespread campaign of terror and intimidation against Mexican-Americans and Negroes, who together make up over half the population of this city. The most recent instance of this terror — the raiding of 41 cafes and taverns on the West Side, predominantly Mexican-American neighborhood.

Using as an excuse the hold-up and beating of a city detective, the police launched a "clamp down" on West Side activities. Mexican-Americans peacefully eating supper or enjoying an evening beer had to undergo the indignity of being frisked by the cops, and several social groups were broken up.

New York

The local press played up the raids with banner headlines. Spread across all the front pages was the sensational discovery that most men carry pocketknives, with the announcement by the police that they had confiscated 65 knives. Twelve persons were arrested on charges of vagrancy and drunkenness. Police Deputy Chief Cliff Rachissel announced that the raids would continue.

★

SEVERAL TIMES during the past few weeks the police have raided the 500 and 600 blocks of East Commerce, an area of Negro-owned cafes and taverns. Forty to 50 negroes are arrested at each raid, and the Police Department publicly gives as a reason that "there are too many of them on the streets"! Those arrested are booked on charges of vagrancy or drunkenness, or for a physical checkup at the clinic.

Negro Under $200 Bond After Scuffle On Bus

Montgomery Ala. Advertiser

George L. Kelly, Negro, 137 Day Street, was charged with disorderly conduct yesterday for allegedly attacking a City Lines bus driver Monday night. The Negro allegedly had a pistol in his hand.

The bus driver, Richard Baker Pruett, 26 Cleveland Avenue, said that he had requested that the Negro move a truck which he was driving from the roadway.

Pruett testified that the Negro attacked him before he had time to pull his own pistol or set the brakes to the bus. The incident occurred on Day Street near Hugh Street.

Wed. 3-16-49

During the ensuing fight, the bus rolled down the hill, knocked a telephone pole down and hit a bank, investigating Officers J. E. Ingram and R. W. Moore said.

The incident occurred at 6:50 p.m., the officers said. Kelly was released on a $200 bond. Trial was set for March 17.

Negro Attacks Nurse In Mobile

13a Ala.

Advertiser

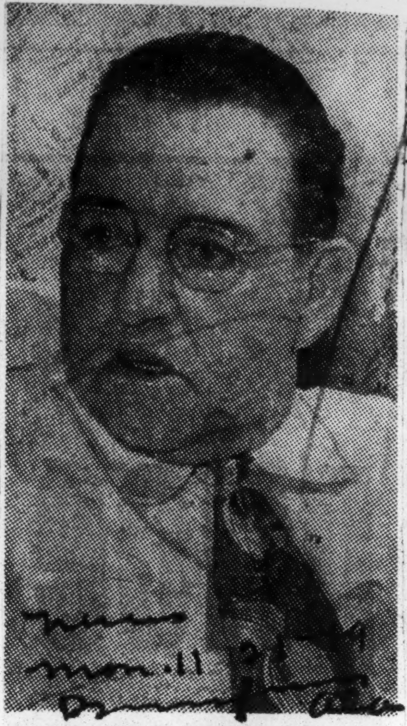
MOBILE, ALA., Nov. 22—(AP)—A white woman was seriously cut tonight when a Negro attacked her in her bedroom at a nurses' home here.

Wed. 11-23-49

The victim, a nurse, was slashed on her arms and legs and told officers her assailant used a razor. She became hysterical and officers were unable to get a coherent statement from her as she was being taken to a nearby hospital. Detective Captain Talley Rollings said it had not been determined if she had been raped.

Montgomery Ala.

At police headquarters two suspects were being questioned an hour after the attack.



News Mon. 11-21-49 Birmingham Ala.

SAYS SELF DEFENSE—M. A. Weeks, Beco streetcar conductor, who wounded three Negroes.

Three Negro Men Hurt In Altercation With Streetcar Man

An altercation on a streetcar resulted in the shooting of three Negro men by M. A. Weeks, the conductor, City Detectives R. A. MacMurdo and W. J. Haley said today.

News Mon. 11-21-49

They said Weeks suffered lacerations on his arms and legs in a scuffle.

Samuel Lee Williams, 34, of 133 16th Avenue, West, was shot three times and reported today to be in a poor condition at Hillman Hospital.

Birmingham Ala.

Also hit were John Garlington, 21, of 40 Fourth Avenue, South, in the Hillman with a hip wound; Amos Crosby, 24, of 108 Fourth Avenue, Southwest, treated at Hillman Hospital for a leg wound and dismissed.

* * *

THE SHOOTING occurred on the Pratt City streetcar (No. 6) on Eighth Avenue, North, between 15th and 16th Streets, the detectives said.

13a Ala.

They said they were told Williams, who had been drinking, seated himself in the white section of the streetcar.

As an altercation ensued between Williams and Weeks, the detectives said, Garlington and Crosby apparently were shot, accidentally.

No charges were placed against Weeks, the detectives said, but they are still investigating the shooting. They said streetcar conductors are permitted to carry weapons for their protection.

* * *

CONDUCTOR WEEKS said Williams boarded the streetcar at Seventh Avenue and North 17th Street.

"He paid his fare when he came in the center entrance," Weeks said. "Then he went into white section and sat down. He was in an intoxicated condition."

"There were vacant seats in the colored section. I spoke to him about sitting in the colored section. He demanded I put the boards up so that where he was sitting would then be a colored section.

"After other colored passengers spoke to Williams he got up and went back into the colored section. He sat in the first seat in the colored section near the center door only a few feet from where I was standing in the center of the streetcar.

"He began to curse me to the other Negro passengers. I took one step toward him and raised my right hand. I intended to tell him he would have to stop cursing me and creating a disturbance on the streetcar.

"Just as I got to him he lunged toward me and caught my right hand. He dug his fingernails into my hand. I backed into the white section. He was still following me. I got my gun out and started firing. After I emptied the gun he was still holding on to my left arm.

* * *

WEEKS SAID he didn't know anyone else besides Williams was shot. The other Negroes didn't take any part in the altercation.

The conductor said he has worked for the streetcar company for 30 years, but it was the first time he had to use his gun while on duty to protect himself.

Mobile Mother, Son Brutally Beaten

Montgomery Advertiser

Sun. 3-6-49

13a

MOBILE, ALA., March 5—(AP)—A 29-year-old mother and her 13-year-old adopted son were brutally beaten at their suburban home last night.

Montgomery Ala.

Sheriff W. H. Holcombe today said a Negro, Dan York, 25, had been charged with assault and robbery in connection with the case and removed to Kilby Prison for safekeeping.

Police said a prowler entered the Beverly home through a door left unlocked for her husband, who works on a night shift at a shipyard.

He struck Mrs. Beverly with the baseball bat when she started up in bed. He hit the boy, sleeping on a couch in the hall, on the head with a chair.

Then he dragged Mrs. Beverly out into the yard, where he began to choke her. The screams of a nine-year-old son who had been aroused by the struggle awoke neighbors, who drove the prowler off.

Mrs. Beverly suffered a fractured left arm and scalp lacerations. Donald suffered cuts on the head and a possible skull fracture. Both were listed in "fair" condition at City Hospital here.

Negro Swears Quarter Beat Him For Quitting

13a

Birmingham News

OPELIKA, Ala., April 27—(AP)—A Negro swore out warrants yesterday charging four white men beat him because he quit a sawmill job.

Birmingham Ala.

Sheriff Eugene Lowe, Jr., said the warrants charged assault and battery and listed two of the men. The others were listed as "John Doe."

Wed. 4-27-49

The sheriff said the warrants were sent to nearby Macon County for service. He said names of the Negro and two white men were not available here.

Justice of the Peace H. Curtis Ivey said the Negro told him he had been working for the White men, but quit to help with farm work at home.

At Tuskegee Macon County Sheriff E. E. Evans declined to name the men. He said: "It's none of your business. That's how agitation gets started."

Sheriff Evans said he was returning the warrants to Opelika to "get the names straightened out."

Negro Identifies Alleged Attackers

Montgomery Advertiser

13a

OPELIKA, ALA., April [illegible]—(AP)—Three of the four white men charged with beating a young Negro for quitting his job were identified today.

Montgomery Ala.

Sheriff Eugene Lowe, Jr., said the Negro, John Louis Grimmett, of Opelika, Route 2, swore out a "John Doe" warrant against the fourth because he didn't know his name.

Thur. 4-28-49

The other warrants, Lowe said, named Jimmy Taylor, Dewey Thompson and a Mr. Kirby of nearby Macon County as Grimmett's attackers.

Justice of Peace H. Curtis Ivey quoted the Negro as saying he had been working for the white men but quit to do farm work at home.

At Montgomery, where he attended a meeting, Macon County Sheriff E. E. Evans said he didn't know whether the warrants had been served. Other members of his force could not be reached.

Mobile Jury Indicts Negro For Burglary

Montgomery Advertiser

Montgomery Ala.

MOBILE, ALA., April 20.—(AP)—The Mobile County grand jury returned three indictments today against a 28-year-old Negro charged wtih beating a Prichard woman and her son.

Thur. 4-21-49

13a

The indictment charged Dan York, Jr., with first degree burglary, which carries a maximum death penalty in Alabama. The two others charged him with assault to murder.

York is accused of entering a Prichard home and beating Mrs. Clementine Beverly and her adopted son, 13-year-old Donald Philen.

13a

York is confined to Kilby Prison at Montgomery for safekeeping.

Thur. 4-21-49

Warrants Sworn In Assault Case

13a

Pittsburgh Courier

OPELIKA, Ala.—A youth who charged that four white men cruelly beat him because he quit working for them as a sawmill hand to help with farm work at home, swore out warrants for his assailants' arrest last week.

Pittsburgh Pa.

The victim, John Louis Grimmett, about 18, identified three of the men as Jimmy Taylor, Dewey Thompson and a "Mr. Kirby." A "John Doe" warrant was issued for the fourth man allegedly involved.

Sat. 5-7-49

Beats White Woman; Faces Death Penalty

Pittsburgh Courier

13a

MOBILE, A— A Prichard, Ala., man, accused of entering a home there and beating a white wo-

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man was indicted last week for first degree burglary, a death offense in Alabama, by a Mobile County grand jury. He is Dan York Jr., 28, who was rushed to Kilby Prison at Montgomery for safekeeping.

Pittsburgh Pa.

Sat. 4-30-49

White Witnesses Support Beaten Man's Story

City Employee Fined $50 And Costs For Assault On Negro, Father Of 10

Montgomery Examiner

Montg. Ala.

A Negro man with 10 children, a good work record and a white employer who stood by him, saw the white man who had beaten him up fined $50 and costs for assault and battery by Judge John Scott in Montgomery City Court Saturday.

13a

The man convicted was L. M. Parker, physical instructor in the Police Department up until about the time three months ago when he was involved in a taxicab accident. He now is employed in the Parking Meter Department under N. C. Lingo.

Ala.

The Negro was Willie James Tallie, of Short Street, employed by City Provision Co. for two years and before that for many years by Swift & Co. In both jobs his record is excellent.

Thu. 6-16-49

The beating occurred about 10 p. m. June 7th at a filling station, corner of Madison and McDonough, whose night manager is J. P. Lefevers. The story of Tallie and Lefevers in court was in substance as follows:

Passed on Right

Tallie was driving his City Provision Co. truck on McDonough, and Parker was on a motorcycle behind and a little to the right of him. When Tallie started a right turn into the filling station Parker was caught on the right. In the tight situation, both came to a dead stop without collision. When Tallie saw nobody was hurt, he drove on in to the pump.

6-16-49

Lefevers said Parker parked his motor behind the truck, got off and started abusing Tallie while Tallie sat in the cab with his wife and baby. When things quieted down Lefevers told Tallie to come on out and unlock his gas tank. The manager told Judge Scott that Parker then came behind Tallie and struck him to the ground with his fist. When Tallie started to get up, Parker hit him in the mouth, knocking three teeth loose.

The attack was halted by Lefevers, another employee, Ned Harrell, who also testified in court, and Bobby Helms, a passerby.

Threatens White Men

The three white men who intervened said Parker was bitter and threatened to come back "after them."

Parker's story in court was that the Negro cursed him and threatened him with a tire tool.

The Negro's employer, R. C. Brantley, owner of City Provision Co., came at once when notified of the attack, took his driver down to City Hall and helped him file complaint. Mr. Brantley also took his employee to St. Margaret's Hospital where he was treated by Dr. R. S. Ashurst. At first it was thought that the man's jaw was broken, but x-ray tests disproved it.

Negro Who Escaped 14 Hours Before Release Time Shot, Captured

The Advertiser

Montgomery Ala.

Sun. 7-24-49

13a

A 43-year-old Negro convict, who escaped with only 14 hours left to serve, is back at Kilby Prison with a broken leg.

Prison Director Frank Boswell said the Negro, Willie Davis, was captured after beating off dogs with a four-foot pole, nearly killing one of them.

p. 5

Prison officials were tipped, he said, that Davis had turned up in a Negro section of the city. He ran away before they could corner him.

Boswell said dogs were put on Davis' trail and caught up with him in a wooded area several miles away.

Dog Warden Ed Latiker attempted to reason with the Negro, but he continued to fight off both dogs and prison officials. Finally, the prison director said, Latiker shot Davis in the leg so he could be subdued.

Boswell quoted Davis as saying he ran away from Kilby because other convicts told him prison officials weren't going to turn him loose, but meant to electrocute him.

Davis was sent up for three years from Monroe County for assault with intent to murder.

Berry Men Guilty In Boy Whipping

Advertiser

13a

FAYETTE, ALA., Aug. 1—(AP)—Two Berry men today were convicted of assault and battery with a weapon in the beating of an 18-year-old farm boy. Each was fined $100 and costs.

A third man, arrested and charged with the same offense, was acquitted.

Tues. 8-2-49

Fines were given Leon Kimbrell, 34, a machine operator, and Vick Hudson, 33, a night watchman at a lumber company. A taxi driver, Curt Espey, 40, was termed innocent.

The three were arrested after Aubrey Pinion reported he had been taken to a lonely wooded section near Berry on the night of July 13 and whipped with a stick for nearly 30 minutes.

The hearing was before Probate Judge J. McGough.

Kimbrell testified that he beat Pinion "with a small switch." He told the court Pinion had "cursed" him.

Both Hudson and Espey denied participating in the beating. Espey told the court he drove Pinion and two other men in his taxicab where they directed.

'Model' Prisoner Attacks Guard In Escape Attempt

13a

Ala.

GADSDEN, ALA., July 30.—(AP)—A "model" state road camp prisoner attacked a guard in an escape attempt and was shot and critically wounded, a prison camp official said today.

Ned P. Rogers, assistant superintendent of the Sumiton Prison Camp, said Guard R. J. Croft shot Henry Gordon, a Jefferson County Negro, three times when Gordon attacked Croft with a grass cutting blade.

Sun. 7-31-49

A highway department official at Montgomery who handles convicts said Gordon had served three years of a 10-year sentence for burglary in Jefferson County. He said Gordon was a model prisoner, as far as he knew.

Two Alexander City Men Bound Over In Flogging

Advertiser

ROCKFORD, ALA., July 30.—(AP)—Two Alexander City men held in connection with a flogging at nearby Goodwater were bound over to the grand jury today on $5,000 bond each.

13a

Justice of Peace Robert Wilson, of Goodwater, handed down the order following a four-hour hearing.

Sun. 7-31-49

The men, Bobby Buckner and Buck Burkhalter, were arrested 10 days ago after complaints were made that they took out a white man and Negro and whipped them.

S. G. Bailey, [illegible], and S. G.

Thomas, a Negro, were identified as the flogging victims. Bailey was not seriously hurt. Thomas, however, is under treatment at a hospital for a ruptured kidney and other injuries.

No Indictments Made By Jury

JASPER, Ala., Sept. 16—A Walker County Grand Jury investigating masked floggings reported this afternoon but failed to return indictments in any of the 10 mob violence cases investigated.

Bn. 9-16-44

The Grand Jury did return 34 true bills, but it was learned none of them dealt with masked floggins or mob violence.

Harvey Bennett, Grand Jury foreman, reported to Judge Malcolm Nettles that 72 cases were investigated and 34 true bills were returned.

At least 10 persons appeared before the Grand Jury to testify concerning floggings.

13a 1949 Arkansas

Man Jailed In Robbery Beating Of Elderly Woman

EL DORADO, Ark., June 16—(AP)—Fred Kendrick, 22, El Dorado, Negro, was arrested today by Police Chief C. W. Hickman for the robbery and beating of an elderly postmaster at Oakland, La., Tuesday night. Hickman said Kendrick made a statement admitting he beat and robbed Mrs. Marie Alice Landers, about 60, at Oakland, La., Tuesday night. They said he told of hitting Mrs. Landers over the head with a pistol, twisting a towel around her neck and threatening to kill her unless she gave up her money.

B'ham News B'ham, Ala.
June 16-49

Two Women Shot In Milledgeville

Daily Worker

13a

Atlanta Ga.

White Merchant Arrested On Serious Charges

Wed. 3-9-49

MILLEDGEVILLIE, Ga. — (SNS) — Two Negro women, identified as Marie Jean Harrison and Emma Jonekin, reportedly were in critical condition at a local hospital Tuesday after allegedly being shot by Marion Stembridge, white businessman.

Stembridge was being held in jail.

According to Police Chief Eugene Ellis, Stembridge had gone to the women's home to collect a debt from another person, identified as Johnny Cooper. There were reports that a scuffle ensued.

The white merchant claimed he shot the women in self-defense, after they attacked him. A witness to the shooting was listed as Coroner Sam Terry, an employe of Stembridge.

A warrant of assault with intent to murder was sworn out against Stembridge. Sheriff L. D. Stancill took Stembridge to county jail, later releasing him on bond. He was re-arrested by Night Chief Jack Beckum and placed in city jail on charges of disorderly conduct, shooting and resisting arrest.

According to Chief Ellis, when police went to Stembridge's place of business to question him concerning the shooting the merchant resisted being taken to headquarters and attempted to draw a pistol from his coat pocket.

NEGROES TO HAVE ARMED ESCORT TO FLOG HEARING

Birmingham, Ala.

13a

Trenton, Ga. (Atlas)—An armed escort will be provided for the seven Chattanooga Negroes when they testify before a special Dade County Grand Jury which has been investigating the flogging of the Negroes by a mob of masked men near Hooker, Ga., on April 2nd.

6-3-49

NEGRO WHIPPINGS STIR DEBATE IN U. S. COURT

New York, N.Y.

Journal

13a

11-22-49

Ga.

ROME, Ga. Nov. 21 (AP)—Whether twelve men will stand trial in United States District Court for the flogging of seven Negroes was the issue put up to Judge Frank A. Hooper tonight.

For nearly five hours, the defense and Government lawyers debated whether the charges should be thrown out of court.

Shorn of legal wording, the questions posed for Judge Hooper in the technical arguments were:

Whether the whipping of the Negroes was a matter of assault and battery to be taken up in a state court, or a violation of United States civil rights.

Whether the charge that the Dade County Sheriff, John W. Lynch, and three of his deputies conspired with eight private citizens to deprive the Negroes of their rights under "color of law" was a proper complaint under present laws.

Whether private citizens could aid and abet state officers in depriving citizens of their rights under "color" of state authority.

Judge Hooper said he would try to have an answer to the questions when court convened tomorrow morning.

The case goes back to April 2 when the Ku Klux Klan staged a parage in the Dade County seat of Trenton, Ga., not far from Chattanooga, Tenn.

The parade was marked by the burning of a cross before the home of Mrs. Mamie Clay.

That night, Sheriff Lynch and three of his deputies said they went to the Clay home and arrested seven Negroes for throwing a "wild party."

The Government charged that the Sheriff acted without a warrant and that no formal complaint was placed against the Negroes.

While the Negroes were in their custody en route to jail, the officers said, they were surrounded by a mob of fifty to seventy-five men in the robes of the klan.

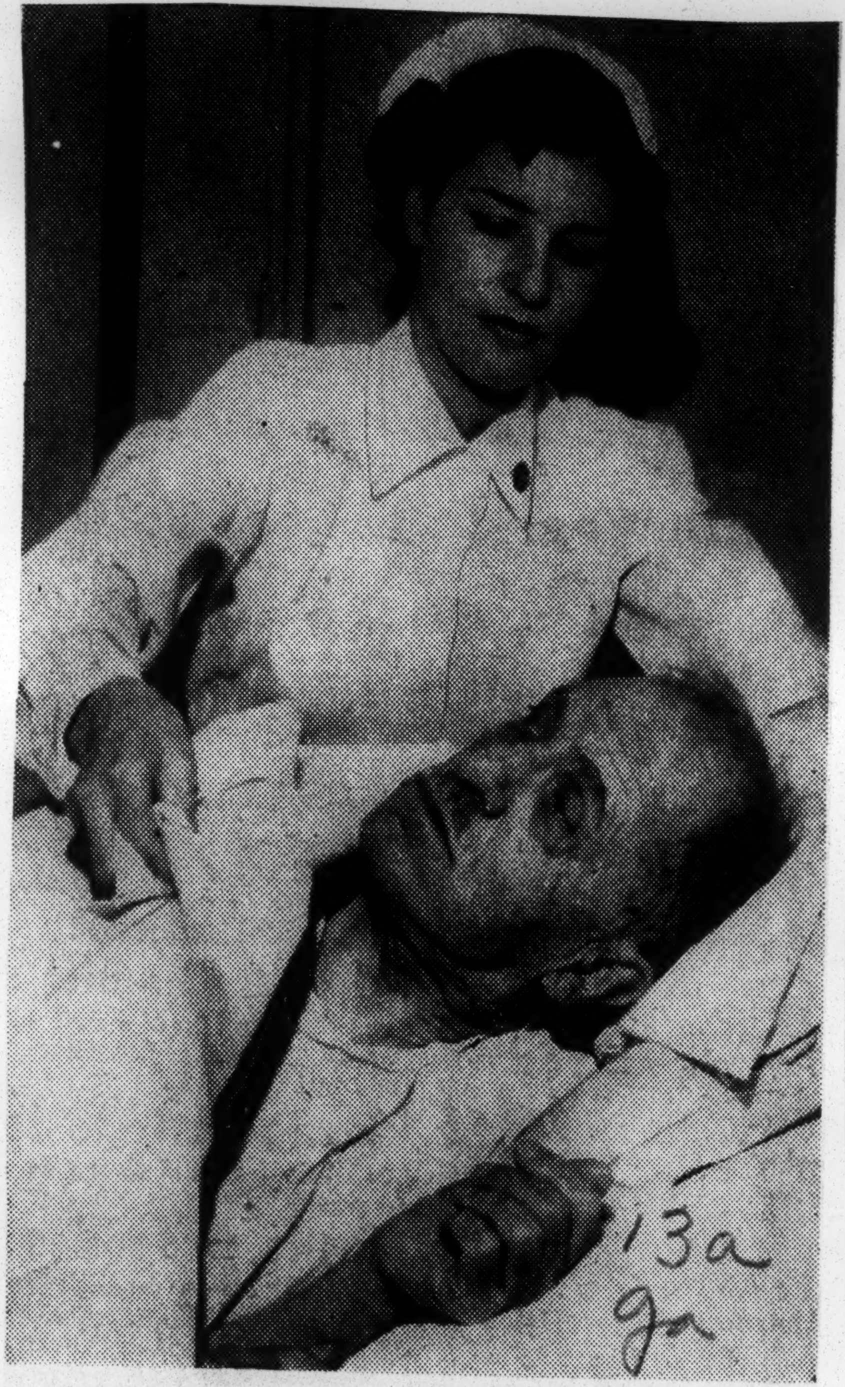
The Sheriff reported the Negroes were taken from him and flogged.

George Moore Severely Beaten

Constitution Thurs. 12-8-49

George Moore, Sr., prominent Atlanta ice cream manufacturer, last night was severely beaten and robbed by two Negro men as he left his office on Alabama Street, S. W.

Bleeding profusely from head



13a

Ga.

Constitution Staff Photo—Carl Dixo

MOORE RESTING—Atlanta businessman George Moore is tended at Crawford W. Long Hospital after being severely beaten and robbed early last night. Nurse Kaye Harris, of 16 Prescott St., N. E., is shown with Moore. He was reported in "fair" condition early today.

wounds, the 72-year-old Moore staggered into a service station at Hunter and Washington Streets. Station attendants rushed him to Grady Hospital. He was transferred to Crawford W. Long Hospital where he was admitted for treatment.

13a

Det. Sgt. W. D. Anderson said Moore left his office at 54 Alabama St., S. W., at 6:15 p. m. and was walking down a narrow, dark catwalk leading from Central Avenue to Washington Street. His automobile was parked at the service station at Hunter and Washington.

Ga.

As Moore neared Washington Street, he said two Negro men between 20 and 30 years of age dashed up behind him. One seized him around the throat and pulled his head back while the second struck him with some heavy object.

12-8-49

Unconscious for several minutes after the attack, the elderly business executive managed to pull along the narrow catwalk to Washington Street.

C. W. Patty, operator of the service station, and T. J. McKenney, Negro porter, of 415 Whitehall Terrace, S. W., saw him as he reached the street. They rushed him to Grady.

Anderson said the wall of the building on the right side of the four-foot catwalk was splattered with blood. A heavy trail of blood led from the place where the attack occurred to Washington Street.

Atlanta

A section from the chain of Moore's $150 watch was found at the scene, Anderson said. He added the watch was missing, but that the assailants were frightened away before they obtained the wallet.

Ga.

A shattered soft drink bottle also was found at the scene. Anderson said it apparently was used as the weapon.

Moore is President of the George Moore Ice Cream Company, Inc.

A short time after the attack on Moore, two Negro men answering the same description robbed Wesley Jackson, Negro, of 77 Chestnut St., of his billfold, watch and overcoat, totaling a $130 value, Det. George Christian reported. Jackson said the two approached him at Turner and Ashby Streets and drew pistols.

Dade County's Sheriff Surrenders To A Mob

Atlanta Daily World
Atlanta, Ga. Wed. 4-13-49

13a

(From The Atlanta Journal)

IN OLD ENGLAND the county sheriff was somebody to be reckoned with. He rode a high horse, and his sway over the countryside was not to be challenged.

There is still much dignity and power to the position of sheriff, but small luster was added thereto by the reported conduct of Sheriff John Lynch when a group of Ku Klux Klansmen took seven Negroes from his custody in north Georgia last Saturday night and flogged them.

Sheriff Lynch, Dade county's strong arm of the law, and three of his deputies arrested the Negroes in a raid on a Negro woman's house where "wild parties" had been reported. The masked mob took the prisoners away from the sheriff, burned a cross, and then administered the whippings.

Wed. 4-13-49

Ga

Said Sheriff Lynch: "There wasn't anything left for us to do but leave. What would you do if there were 50 or 100 men around and ordered you to leave?"

That is an interesting question, one that every man must answer for himself. At any rate, Sheriff Lynch's answer is clear enough. He and his deputies left.

Wed. 4-13-49

The flogging incident is now a matter of history. Newspapers throughout the country have quoted the sheriff's words, and they have charged that he failed in his duty. He was tested in the crucible, they say, and found wanting.

Had Sheriff Lynch stood his ground and defied the mob, upholding the law as he was sworn to do, he would have done his state and nation a matchless service. As it is, the kindest thing to say is that he should have chosen a less hazardous profession.

Wed. 4-13-49

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8 INDICTED IN FLOGGING CASE

Daily World, Atlanta, Ga.
Sat. 6-4-49

13a

MACON, Ga.—(INS)—A Federal grand jury Friday indicted eight white men for beating a Negro 13 months ago in a rural part of Harris County, Ga.

The middle district grand jury handed down the indictment in Macon. The indictment said the beating followed a fight between Elisha Baker, Sr. and Negro William Capers Jarrett, a 33-year-old sawmill worker, on April 23, 1948.

U. S. District Attorney John P. Cowart in Macon, in announcing the indictment, did not give the extent of Jarrett's injuries. Neither did he give the reason for the 13-month delay in bringing charges against the eight men.

The indictment charged that following the fight between Baker, Sr. and Jarrett, one of the group—Deputy Sheriff Willie Chapman—arrested the Negro and turned him over to the rest for action.

The eight are charged with depriving Jarrett of his "rights, privileges and immunities" as guaranteed by the 14th Amendment to the Federal Constitution.

The men, arrested Friday by Dep. U. S. Marshall G. W. Walker, Jr. of Columbus, were identified, besides Baker, Sr. and Chatman, as Thomas Edward Baker, Elisha Baker, Jr., William Art Carpenter, William Tillman Satterfield, William Ralph Leverett and Marion Rufus Dunn.

The men were released under $1,000 bond each and face trial in the Columbus term of Federal court this September. Harris County is just north of Columbus.

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8 Indicted in Negro Beating

By the Associated Press

Macon, Ga.

Christian Science Monitor
Boston Mass.

Willie V. Chapman, a Harris County deputy sheriff, is under federal indictment charged with turning a Negro over to seven white men, who beat him.

Indictments also were returned against the seven. One of them was charged with carrying an ax handle to administer the beating. Mr. Chapman and the others were taken into custody and released under $1,000 bond each.

The Negro, William Capers Jarrett, was whipped more than a year ago. The indictment gave no details.

Tues. 6-7-49

Mr. Chapman and the seven were charged with depriving the Negro of his civil rights.

The indictment said Mr. Jarrett had an argument with one of the defendants, Elisha David Baker, Sr., on April 23, 1948. Mr. Chapman arrested Mr. Jarrett that night.

13a

Mr. Baker, Sr., was one of the seven indicted. The others were Thomas Edward Baker, Elisha David Baker, Jr., William Arthur Carpenter, William Tilman Satterfield, William Ralph Leverett, and Marion Rufus Dunn.

6-7-49

Three counts were charged against Mr. Chapman, who faces a maximum penalty of 13 years in prison if convicted. The others were charged on two counts which carry maximum terms totaling 12 years, plus heavy fines.

Attack Suspect In Plaza Row Bound Over

Constitution
Thurs. 9-29-49

Gus Evans, one-legged Negro, of 531 Western Ave., yesterday was bound over to Fulton County Criminal Court under $500 bond for assault and battery in connection with attacking a 62-year-old white man at Plaza Park.

Atlanta, Ga.

The white man, J. C. Greer, 62, of 856 Greenwood Ave. N. E., said he was sitting in' the park when Evans came up and sat beside him on the park bench. Greer also charged that the Negro sat partially on him.

13a

When he asked Evans to move, Greer said the Negro jumped up and began striking him over the head with a crutch. Several white persons who witnessed the attack appeared in Recorder's Court.

Recorder Frank White ordered Evans held for trial in State Court.

Greer was treated at Grady Hospital for bruises of the right cheek and right side of the head.

Beating Jails Four in Cobb; Seek Rescuer

13a Ga

Four Cobb County men were jailed at Marietta last night in connection with the abduction and severe beating of a 26-year-old Atlanta shipping clerk, Atlanta and Cobb County police said.

The victim, J. C. Benson, of an Old Marietta Road address, told officers he was beaten into unconsciousness near Mableton by three of the men before being rescued by an unidentified Negro man armed with a .45-calibre pistol.

Constitution

Atlanta Dets. W. S. Acree and George Christian identified the four under arrest as Shelton Ellis, 22; J. T. Green, 19, and Raymond Strickland, 25 and his brother, Jesse Strickland, 20, all of Oakdale Road in Cobb County.

The four were held on suspicion of assault and battery and kidnaping, detectives said.

First reports of the incident came to Atlanta police Monday night from witnesses who said they saw three men force a man into an automobile at North Avenue and Luckie Street, N.W.

Atlanta Ga.

Acree and Christian investigated the reports but were unable to locate the victim.

When Benson first filed a complaint at headquarters, detectives quoted him as saying he was forced into a car at knife point, beaten and robbed.

Later, Benson said he met a woman several months ago and had three or four dates with her. He said the woman told him she was married to a soldier, but was separated from him and divorce proceedings were under way.

13a Ga

Benson said he had not seen the woman for several months and had forgotten her. Monday night, he related, he was attempting to fix a flat tire on his auto at North Avenue and Luckie Street when three men drove up in another car.

Atlanta Ga

One of the men produced a knife and forced him into the car, Benson related. He identified the three as Shelton Ellis and Raymond and Jesse Strickland.

They drove by Ellis' home to pick up Green, Ellis' brother-in-law, Benson said. He added Green's mother fainted when one of the group said they planned to "take the man out" and Green decided to remain at home.

Constitution

Driving to a dirt road near Mableton, the three men began beating him with their fists, Benson said. One of the blows knocked him out, he related, and when he regained consciousness he noticed a Negro man drive by in a light-colored Mercury.

Fri. 8-26-49

The Negro turned the car around a short distance down the road, drove back and called out:

"You leave that white man alone. I think I know him."

Raymond Strickland drew a knife and ordered the Negro to leave, Benson said. As Strickland approached the car, the Negro drew a .45 caliber pistol and exhibited it out the car window.

'You ain't goin' hurt dis Nigger, white folks," he was quoted as saying.

"If you come closer, I starts shooting."

As Strickland turned away from the car, Benson said the Negro warned that he was going for the police. He added the trio then drove him back to his car and put him out.

Acree and Christian said Benson's face, chest, back, and the back of his head were badly beaten. They said he still was spitting up blood last night as a result of the mauling.

The two Stricklands and Green were taken into custody by Acree and Christian, aided by Cobb County Patrolmen Hugh Poore and W. A. Wright.

Ellis was arrested after an extended chase with bloodhounds from the Cobb County Prison. Officers said Ellis, clad only in khaki trousers, jumped off the porch of his home and ran when he saw the police cars approaching.

Investigators last night had been unable to establish the identity of the Negro who rescued Benson or find which police department he notified. They said an extensive effort will be made to locate the Negro as a vital witness in the beating.

None of the men wore masks or attempted to conceal their identity, police said.

Girl Complains Of Assault Attempt

Atlanta Ga.
Constitution

A 17-year-old girl complained to police that she was the victim of an assault attempt by a 26-year-old man, police reports showed yesterday.

The assailant was identified as Marvin Peek, of 188 Bailey St., S. W., who reportedly made advances at the young girl in a parked automobile.

Wed. 8-24-49

The victim said she resisted the advances and Peek beat and stomped her. She suffered a bruised back, chest and bruises about the mouth. Police booked Peek on a charge of suspicion of assault and battery.

COUNTY SHERIFF GIVES NEW TWIST TO GA. LAW

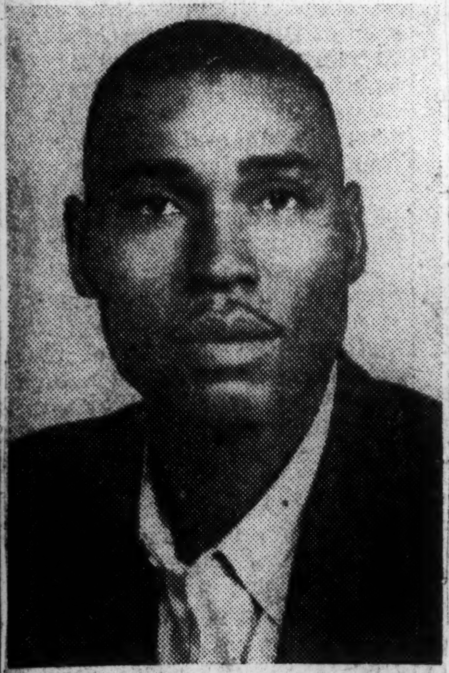
Atlanta Daily World 13a

Atlanta Georgia

SANDERSVILLE, Ga. — (SNS) — Joseph Pinkston, Glascock County Negro who defended his home against two armed whites by shooting one of them through a glass window, was set free by the Georgia Court of Appeals last month, only to be rearrested by the Glascock sheriff and charged with "assault and intent to murder" the second white man.

Tues-2-1-49

Pinkston had already served about four months of a six to ten year sentence imposed by the Glascock Superior Court, when the decision was reversed by the Court of Appeals.



JOSEPH PINKSTON

He had been charged with shooting Ray Reese, a Warren County white farmer whose son had been involved in an argument with Pinkston. Reese and his son drove across the county line to Pinkston's home and started into his house with a pistol and shotgun in their hands. Mr. Pinkston testified that he pleaded with them not to approach, and when the elder Reese ignored him he fired through the window, wounding Mr. Reese.

The high court, in reversing Pinkston's sentence, declared that Reese "unwisely, if not unlawfully, was seeking revenge, and from his own testimony it is easily inferable that he was seeking to invade the habitation of the defendant with a pistol at the time the defendant, in defense of himself and family, shot him through a glass window." Judge B. C. Gardner of Camilla, Ga., wrote, "We cannot let such a verdict stand as a matter of law." Judge Hugh MacIntyre of Thomasville, Ga., and Judge P. M. C. Townsend concurred in the ruling.

Tues-2-1-49

After Mr. Reese was shot, his son, J. L. Reese, carried him to the hospital and later the same day drove back by Mr. Pinkston's house and shot into the occupied dwelling.

The argument leading up to Pinkston's first arrest allegedly came about after young J. L. Reese went into a Negro neighborhood "seeking a drink of liquor." Pinkston, encountering him at the home of a Negro acquaintance, urged him to go home. The argument with the allegedly drunk white man then took place, with Mr. Pinkston leaving for his own home and Reese threatening to "go get his gun" and follow him. Witnesses testified that the elder Reese drove up about this time looking for his son, cursed his son and asked what he was doing "at a Negro's house?" He then commented, they testified that "every time he found his son he was at a Negro's house." Later the father, Ray Reese, and the sobered-up son, drove to Mr. Pinkston's house where the shooting occured.

Mr. Pinkston's attorneys, J. D Godfrey and Casey Thigpen of Sandersville, Ga., argued before the Georgia Court of Appeals that the colored man was "justified in shooting Mr. Reese under every known theory of the law and under no view taken of the evidence by the jury, authorized the verdict of guilty of assault with intent to murder."

Tues-2-1-49

No sooner than Mr. Pinkston was released, did the Glascock sheriff arrest him on a second charge of shooting at young J L. Reese at the same time he shot the father. Free under $500 bond, he has appealed to the Georgia Conference of NAACP Branches for assistance.

No cases were made against the white men for having pistols and shooting into Mr. Pinkston's home.

Merchant Jailed

2 Women Shot By Merchant

Pittsburgh Courier

Pittsburgh Pa

13a

MILLEDGEVILLE, Ga.—Marion Stembridge, a white merchant, was charged last week with the critical wounding of two Negro women, identified by police as Marie Jean Harrison and Emma Jonekin. They were admitted to Milledgeville Hospital in critical condition, while Stembridge was placed in jail.

Police Chief Eugene Ellis said he was informed Stembridge went to the home of the wounded women where he sought to collect a debt from another person, identified as Johnny Cooper. A scuffle allegedly ensued and the women were shot, Chief Ellis said he was told. The merchant claimed he shot the women in self-defense. Coroner Sam Terry, who works for Stembridge, was listed as a witness to the shooting.

A warrant of assault with intent to murder was sworn out against the merchant. Sheriff L. D. Stancill took Stembridge to County jail, later releasing him on bond. He was rearrested by Jack Beckum, night chief, and placed in city jail on charges of disorderly conduct, shooting and resisting arrest.

Sat-3-19-49

Chief Ellis said that when police went to Stembridge's place of business to question him concerning the shooting the merchant resisted being taken to headquaretrs and attemped to draw a pistol from his coat pocket.

YOUNG NEGROES BEATEN BY ARMED WHITE MEN

13a

Attackers Interested In Brotherhood Week, Trio Says

Commercial Appeal

COLUMBUS, Ga., Feb. 24.—(AP) —Three teen-aged negro boys told police Thursday they had been wantonly beaten by five armed white men, all curiously interested in Brotherhood Week.

Memphis Tenn

Police in both Columbus, Ga. and Phenix City, Ala., said they still were unable to establish a motive for the beatings.

The boys, Robert Ford, 16, Matthew Brown and Ernest Chester, both 17, turned up a few minutes after midnight at the home of a white furniture salesman in nearby Phenix City.

All told police loter that the unmasked white men picked them up at gun point as they left a basketball game at the Spencer High School in Columbus and drove them across the river into Alabama.

Fri-2-25-49

There, the three reported, the men questioned them about speeches made at school concerning Brotherhood Week and the activities in Columbus of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Police said the three boys were panicked into flight, after fruitless questioning and being made to disrobe, by a volley of pistol shots. They were beaten badly with fists, they reported.

Police said, "We think the boys' stories are true." All three boys were given first aid in Columbus. Ford had a ripped forearm, where he apparently had plunged blindly into a fence. The other boys complained of severe stomach pains.

Once a year Brotherhood Week is celebrated under the auspices of national church organizations. This year three white men spoke at Spencer High School on "Brotherhood," but neither Ford nor Chester heard the speeches. They do not attend the Spencer School. Brown, a student at Spencer, heard the talks.

The boys could not be located for comment.

REWARD IS OFFERED FOR NEGRO-BEATERS

Times Picayune

New Orleans La.

International News Service

Atlanta, March 1—Gov. Herman Talmadge announced Monday a $1250 reward for the apprehension of five white men who stripped and beat three Negro youths from Columbus, Ga.

Wed-3-2-49

13a

The Georgia chief executive said a $250 reward would be paid for each of the men brought to justice.

Wed-3-2-49

Robert Brown, 16; Matthew Brown, 17, and Ernest Chester, 17, said they were forced into a green car last Wednesday at pistol point and then driven across the river to Phenix City, Ala.

13a

The youths said they were questioned about a speech made last Tuesday in connection with National Brotherhood Week.

Woman Sentenced To 2 to 4 Years

The Herald 13a

Roberta, Ga.—Mary Respress, a comely young woman, of Roberta, Ga., was tried and convicted this week in Crawford County. This young woman's only crime was that she tried to protect her home.

Savannah Ga

Thur-4-7-49

It developed at the trial that her nephew, a young boy about 16 or 17 years old, owned a White man a small bill and at 2 o'clock Christmas Eve, 1947, the man came to their home to collect. Awakening the young woman, he called for the boy and when he appeared the man began to beat him in the face regardless of the fact that his aunt offered to pay the account. It is alleged that he continued to beat the boy and finally called for his gun. With a reputation for shooting, the young woman became panicky and shot him. This young woman has a 7 months old baby that was born out of jail because a strenious fight put up by Editor Marshall to get her a bond. She has been freed on bond since. After the trial she was brought to Macon and placed in the Bibb County jail. The sad part is that she had to take her 7 months old baby with her. What will be the final outcome is not known. Friends of justice and fair play are maping plans to get her a new trial or a change of venue. How well they will succeed remains to be seen.

Thur-4-7-49

—Courtesy of Macon World

U. S. Government May Move Against No. Ga. Officers

13a

Atlanta Daily World

North Georgia U. S. District Attorney Mundy was quoted Wednesday as saying the Federal Government may move against Dade County officials charged with flogging seven Chattanooga, Tenn., persons. The Dade County grand jury Tuesday indicated Sheriff J. W. Lynch and Deputies W. M. Hartline, N. Stokes and John Bleckley in connection with the flogging.

Atlanta Ga

Thur-5-12-49

Ala. Judge Links Sheriff to Beating

Afro American

Baltimore Md.

Tells Club Officer Helped Flog 7 Men

13a

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. — Speaking before the Chattanooga Civitan Club last week, Judge J. M. C. (Red) Townsend of the Georgia Court of Appeals accused Sheriff J. W. Lynch and three deputies of aiding in the recent flogging of seven colored men near Hooker, Ga.

Sat-5-28-49

According to a previous report, the men were flogged by several hooded men. However, Dr. Samuel Green, grand dragon of the Ku Klux Klan, has stated that he does not believe that the men belonged to the klan, but if they did, they would be kicked out.

10 Men Identified

13a

In addressing the Civitan Club, Judge Townsend said that he would not sit quietly by and allow such things to happen again. He explained that 10 men already have been identified with the aid of the FBI.

Four of the beaten men were veterans, the Judge declared. He added that all of them were beaten until the blood ran down their backs.

Sat-4-30-49

Sheriff Lynch refused to comment on the Judge's accusations.

Taken From Bed, Beaten, Left To Die

Chicago Defender

Chicago Ill.

COLUMBIA, S. C. — An unmasked mob of 15 white men Saturday night dragged a 76-year-old Negro farmer from his bed after forcing their way into his home and spirited him off to a nearby woods where they stripped him and beat and kicked him into insensibility.

The latest victim of the new wave of klan-inspired mob violence in the South was Shelton Lorick, who is in a serious condition at the Columbia hospital here, following a night of exposure and serious injuries received at the hands of vicious white hoodlums.

Sat-5-21-49

The attack occurred only two nights following the appearance at nearby Orangeburg of Samuel

Green, grand dragon of the Ku Klux Klan of Georgia, to issue charters for the "bed-sheet brigade" to chapters of the organization in Orangeburg and North counties.

Several of the men who have been identified to Sheriff H. Oswald Cromer and Mayor Owens of Columbia by Lorick, are reported to be active leaders in the klan movement in this section of the state. The victim's version of the attack follows:

Lorick and his paralyzed wife had retired early. About midnight they heard a number of automobiles speed up to the gate and stop. A group of men rushed up on the porch and broke in the door.

Sat. 5-21-49

They dragged Lorick from his bed, despite the pleas of his wife, and struck his son over the head with a blackjack when he attempted to come to the aid of his aged father. Lorick was flung to the floor of one of the cars. He was stripped of his nightclothes as the cars sped away to a swamp on the Swansea highway.

13a

There the aged farmer was dragged out of the car and beaten with clubs and cuffed and kicked by the white mobsters. They accused him of associating with white people and allowing them to come to his home.

Sat. 5-21-49

As Lorick lay naked and shivering on the rain-soaked ground, he attempted to explain that the whites who visited his farm came to buy eggs and other produce, or to visit his crippled wife as an act of neighborliness.

In answer the leader of the mob shouted, "We white people are going to run this state," and kicked him in the head, rendering him unconscious.

Several hours later, Lorick regained consciousness and staggered to the home of a white famliy, who gave him clothing and drove him to the hospital where he is still under medical care.

Lorick was able to identify several of the unmasked whites who assaulted him. He is the brother of the veteran chauffeur of Mayor Owens who has taken a personal interest in the case.

Negro citizens and the better element among whites have demanded that the sheriff make a thorough investigation of the case, and arrest the men responsible for the outburst.

It is believed that the attack on Lorick and the recent abduction of NAACP state secretary James M. Hinton, president of this city, at Augusta, Ga., were part of klan-inspired reign of terror designed to frighten Negro citizens from registering and voting in the coming state and local elections.

Sat. 5-21-49

Indict 8 For Beating Negro

Defender
Chicago Ill.
13a

MACON, Ga.—Eight white men, including [illegible] sheriff of Harris County, last week were indicted by a federal grand jury for the mob beating of a Negro, William Capers Jarrett, more than a year ago.

13a Sat. 6-11-49

Although the indictments were returned at a secret session last Monday, no announcement was made until Friday when all eight of the men had been arrested.

Sat. 6-11-49

The deputy sheriff, Willie V. Chapman, was indicted on three counts dealing with "conspiracy to deny Jarrett, 33, his civil rights."

Chapman, it was charged, went to Jarrett's house ostensibly to arrest him for fighting with a white man. Instead of taking him to jail, the deputy turned Jarrett over to the other men who beat him severely with an ax handle.

PROBE KLAN FLOGGINGS

St. Louis Argus
St. Louis, Mo
13a

TRENTON, Ga., May 10—Heavily guarded by law officers, an investigation into the mass flogging of nine men by assailants identified as Ku Klux Klansmen opened here Tuesday.

Seven of the victims, all from Chattanooga, 20 miles north of here, were escorted here by three cars of the Georgia State Patrol.

Fri. 5-13-49

Judge John H. Paschall, who called the Grand Jury into special session, asked that steps be ta ken to insure that citizens will be protected from violence. About 100 spectators crowded the small court room.

The floggings occurred April 2. Sheriff J. W. Lynch had arrested the seven at a house where he said "wild parties" had been reported. He said a group of about 40 masked and robed men appeared and took his prisoners.

Fri. 5-13-49

The victims reported they were loaded into a station wagon, driven to a wooded spot, flogged and told to "clear out."

Man Assailed By Band Of Men Here Early Wednesday

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

A McMillan Street man was treated Wednesday for lacerations back of his head following an assault in which he alleged five or six white men attacked him without any known reason.

David Thomas, 24 years old, of 760 McMillan Street, N. W., complained to city police that a group of white men assaulted him around 1 a. m. Wednesday morning at the corner of Marietta and McMillan Streets.

Thu. 5-19-49

He said he was passing the group when one of the men yelled "Wait a minute boy" Ignoring the summon, he said he began walking faster, but the men overtook and surrounded him.

13a

One hit him over the head with some instrument, he told police.

Detectives Ellington and Pack investigated the offense.

Judge Scores Georgia Sheriff Who Gave Up Prisoners To Klansmen

Chicago Defender Chicago Ill.
13a

Sat. 5-21-49

By RUSS J. COWANS
(Staff Correspondent)

TRENTON, ~~Ga.~~ — The sheriff of Dade county, three of his deputies and another person, were indicted last Tuesday by the Dade County grand jury in the flogging of seven Negroes last April 2, in a woods near Hooker, Ga.

The jury returned the indictments after listening to the testimony of the victims, who were brought here under escort of Georgia highway patrolmen.

13a

Sheriff John W. Lynch and Deputies W. M. Hartline, N. Stokes McCaulley and John Beckley were indicted on charges of assault and battery and failures to suppress mob violence. Robert Keener was indicted on an assault charge.

Sat. 5-21-49

Sheriff Lynch, after the flogging, said about 40 members of the Ku Klux Klan seized the men after he and his deputies had taken them into custody during a raid at a colored woman's house where "wild parties" had been reported.

The seven victims live in Chattanooga, a short distance from Trenton.

The victims said they were loaded into a station wagon, driven to a wooded area near Hooker, flogged and told to "clear out."

One of the group, William West, a porter at a hotel in Chattanooga, in describing the beating, said:

"They took us up into the woods and whipped us one at a time. I was the sixth to be whipped. They beat us 12 or 15 licks and told us to run across the hill. We finally got away and came back to Chattanooga."

Sat. 5-21-49

Sheriff Lynch said the Klansmen burned a cross before the whippings. He said he and his deputies left when the Klansmen ordered them to.

"There wasn't anything else left for us to do but leave," he said. "What would you do if there were 50 or 100 men around and ordered you to leave?"

Judge John H. Paschall called the special session of the grand jury to investigate the floggings.

Judge Paschall ordered Sheriff Lynch, his deputies and Keener to make appearance bonds of $1,000 each. The count against each man is a misdeanor calling for a maximum sentence of six months in jail house, 12 months in the work house, a $1,000 fine, or all three. The trial date was not set.

In his charge to the jury, Judge Parchall said: "we are entitled to be known as a state where law and order prevails, and where there is impartiality in the enforcement of the law.

"Georgia is one of the 13 original colonies. It is entitled to the name it has—Empire State of the South.

Sat. 5-21-49

"When any band of masked men assumes to take the law into their own hands, and under the cover of darkness go out and administer punishment to anybody, that is striking at the foundations of our form of government."

Klan's Offer To Help Find Negro Boys Floggers Is Refused

Birmingham News
Wed. 3-2-49
Birmingham, Ala.
13a

COLUMBUS, Ga., March 2—Police Chief John G. Newberry has turned down flatly an offer of the Ku Klux Klan to detail 500 members to investigate last week's kidnap-flogging of three Negro boys.

"I want all the information I can get, but I don't need any deputies," Chief Newberry said, replying to Free W. New, an attorney, who said he represented officers of the original Southern Klans, Inc.

The attorney had said earlier at his home in Hamilton that the Klan offered $250 for identifying any one of the floggers, which raised the total reward to $1,500 after Gov. Talmadge posted $250 for each of the five unidentified men who, the boys said, abducted them.

13a

The three told police they were seized in Columbus Wednesday night, driven to Phenix City, questioned about "Brotherhood Week" observances, beaten and fired upon.

Mr. New said Klan officials "are confident that it was not one of their number, but if it were, I am sure they would deliver him to law enforcement officers."

GRANDMOTHER, 61, FREED:

Sat. 5-7-49
13a

Hot Water Assault Boils Down to $33

The Afro American Baltimore
Baltimore Md.
13a
7a

ATLANTA (NNPA)—Accused of throwing boiling water into the face of a Locust Grove planter who allegedly tried to force her to nurse his baby, Mrs. Julia Johnson, 61-year-old mother of 14 children and grandmother of five, last Monday, walked out of Henry County Superior Court a free woman.

Her penalty was $33 and three hogs. The money paid court costs.

The hogs, which had been confiscated following her arrest, got into the story when the planter, W. W. Cleveland Jr., told the court he was willing "to forget the entire matter of the boiling water assault if she agreed to go in peace and forget all about the three hogs."

The aging mother had been jailed three months in McDonough, Ga., prior to the trial. She had been taken into custody, it was learned, from the Scottdale Home to which agents of the Georgia Citizens Defense Committee had moved her family, after she had made a desperate and dramatic run for freedom following the alleged argument with Cleveland at her isolated shack on his plantation last November.

Sat. 5-7-49

Aided by Citizens

At the time, she was living with her daughter's family in one of the isolated farm shanties which Wofford Cleveland Sr. provides for his tenants on the plantation in Henry County.

Sat. 5-7-49

Mrs. Johnson, whose youngest daughter formerly lived in Atlanta, told her pathetic story to the Defense Committee, the Rev. William H. Borders, chairman, after she had gained temporary freedom from authorities.

She said that she had been helping her daughter, Clara, and the children pick cotton all day and was dead tired when the younger Cleveland came to the house and asked her to "come mind the baby" while he made a trip to Atlanta. She twice refused.

Cursed Her

When the farm overseer returned a third time, he "carried both an axe and a gun." At the time Mrs. Johnson was scalding a pot out with boiling hot water, the stove being located between herself and the door. "He began cursing me and I threw the hot water into his face and ran as fast as I could across the fields to the highway," she recalled.

Sat. 5-7-49

The Defense Committee voted funds for Mrs. Johnson's temporary welfare and sent a representative with a transfer truck to remove her family's belonging — all but three hogs which Cleveland refused to permit the representative to take, he said, for a debt. Mrs. Johnson and her family were resettled in Scottdale.

That was last November. But for some undisclosed reason she later was rearrested and jailed for three months.

3 Boys Flogged by Klansmen

The Courier 13a

By FRANK FREEMAN

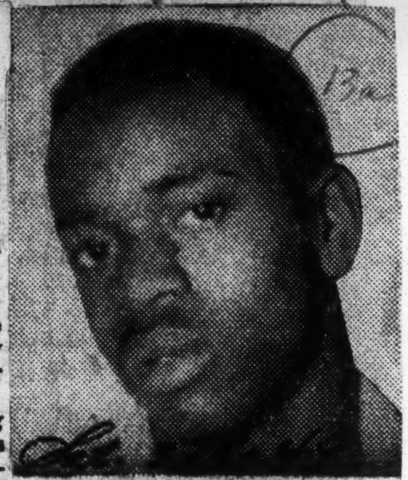
(Special to The Pittsburgh Courier)

Pittsburgh, Pa.

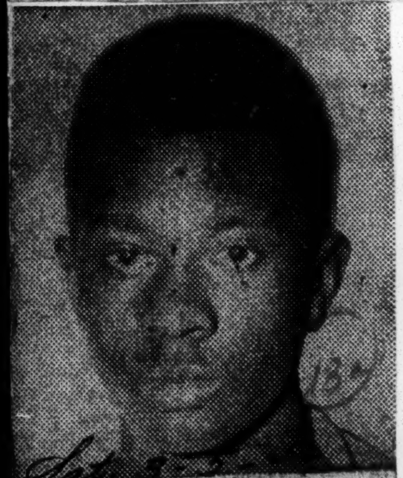
COLUMBUS, Ga.—Three teen-age boys were kidnapped from the streets of this city at gun-point last Wednesday night by five unmasked white men in an auto. The men took the trio over the Chattahoochee River across the State line into Alabama. There the boys were forced to strip naked, were brutally beaten and then forced to run for their lives.

Sat. 3-5-49

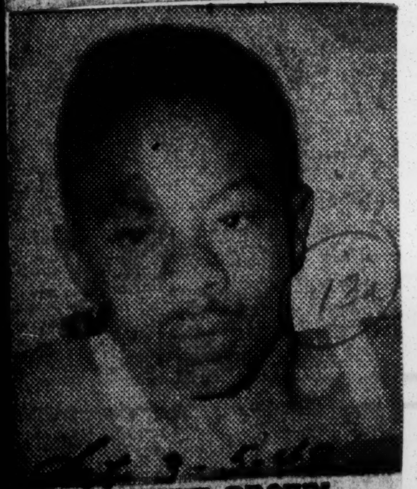
Local police are still searching for the five men who the boys said were in a green Buick automobile when they drove up beside them on a local street.



ERNEST CHESTER



ROBERT FORD



MATTHEW BROWN

According to the boys, the men pulled alongside them and one yelled at them: "What did you say?" One of the boys replied, "Nothing." The trio was coming from a basketball game at Spencer High School here.

WERE AMBUSHED

They said the men then drove around the block and met them again. This time the car stopped and three of the men were hidden around a corner while the boys approached.

As they reached the corner, the boys told The Courier, they were ordered at pistol-point to hold up their hands and not look back. As they were escorted to the car where the other two men waited, they were hurled into the back seat and driven over the bridge to Phoenix City, Ala.

There they were told to get out of the car and remove all their clothing. The whites then asked them the names of the president of the NAACP branch in Columbus, and whether or not the white speakers shook hands with Principal Duval of Spencer High School at a recent Brotherhood Week program held in the school.

The boys told them they couldn't answer any of their questions because they didn't know the answers.

FIRED SEVERAL SHOTS

The hoodlums then flogged them brutally, giving Matthew Brown, 17 a terrific punch in his stomach from which he is still suffering; Robert Ford, 16 made a run for his life and says he was shot at several times.

Ford said he called two Negro men and told them his story. They gave him a shirt and a pair of trousers. Thus clad, he made his way back to Columbus and immediately notified parents of the other two boys. The pair had also been beaten and told to run for their lives. The third boy was Ernest Chester, 17.

The two boys on the Alabama side of the river went to the Phoenix City police and told what had happened. Phoenix City officers took them back to the scene of the floggings where their clothing was recovered. They were then brought into Columbus, where the Mayor and city officials wired Governor Talmadge asking that a reward be posted for apprehension of the kidnapping-floggers.

Negro Boys Charge Attack By Whites

The News Birmingham, Ala.

COLUMBUS, Ga., Feb. 25—(AP)—Three Negro boys told yesterday they were picked up at gunpoint by five white men Wednesday night, taken to Phenix City, Ala., and beaten. The men then drove them off with gunfire, the boys said.

13a Fri 2-25-49

En route to Phenix City, the boys said they were questioned about a recent Brotherhood Week meeting at their school and also about the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Police identified the three as Robert Ford, 16; Matthew Brown and Ernest Chester, both 17. All are students at Spencer Negro High School here.

Ford was found by police in Columbus clad only in his underwear. He was treated for bruises and lacerations at City Hospital. Brown and Chester suffered less serious injuries.

Fri-2-25-49

The boys said they were going home about 10 p.m. from a basketball game at the Spencer School when the men drove up beside them and forced them into the car.

On the outskirts of the town across the Alabama line, the boys related, the white men beat them with their fists, threw them out of the car and fired several shots.

Fri 2-25-49

The men were not masked, but the boys could only give a vague description of them to police.

2-25-49

Chaillot Palace, where the United Nations recently met, was the site on which Napoleon planned to build the greatest of palaces, but never lived to see it rise.

The Bureau of Agricultural Economic reported that a sample survey showed five persons reported injured during the first four months of 1948 for every 100 farms.

All Columbus Up in Arms

Afro-American

'Operation Humanity' Planned in Columbus

Baltimore, Maryland 13a

FBI CALLED IN

Boys Still Afraid But Talk for AFRO

Sat. 3-5-49

By DOUGLASS HALL

COLUMBUS, Ga.—"Do you reckon they'll come back after us?"

That is the question being asked by the three youths who were kidnaped and beaten by five strange white men last Wednesday night.

The three, Matthew Brown, 17; Robert Ford, 16, and Ernest Chester, 17, were picked up at gunpoint as they left a basketball game at the Spencer High School here.

According to the trio, they were driven across the river to Phenix City in Alabama. There they were alternately beaten and shot at while being questioned about Brotherhood Week and NAACP activities in Columbus.

FBI Enters Case

13a

Since the incident involves the crossing of a State line, it has been reported to the FBI. Reports are that a preliminary investigation has been made to determine whether any Federal laws had been violated.

Although they are still so frightened that they are reluctant to talk, the three youths had nerve enough to see the scene when their captors began shooting at their feet.

Sat. 3-5-49

Brown and Chester fled to the home of a white furniture salesman in Phenix City. Ford was picked up by police in Columbus, wandering around dazed in just his underwear.

All three had been forced to strip down to their underwear when they landed in Phenix City. When they told their stories, all complained, not only of bruises and cuts, but also of severe stomach pains.

They were still somewhat afraid to talk when they told their story of shock and terror once again for the AFRO.

Matthew Brown, an eighth grader at Spencer High School, was in the front room of the barn-red frame home of his parents on Fourth Ave. when questioned.

Matthew, the only one of the three who is actually a pupil of the school, said he did not hear the Brotherhood Week speech the white man questioned the boys about.

"I was down in the mechanics workshop while the assembly was going on," he said. "We kept telling the men we didn't know anything about it, but every time we said that they'd hit us again."

"Made Me Kinda Dizzy"

Robert Ford, who crossed the railroad trestle barefooted at midnight to get back to Columbus, winced as he eased his shirt off to show the bandages on his right arm.

He said, "It all made me kinda dizzy, I don't know how I hurt my arm; it was while I was running."

He was the first to leave the beating scene, fleeing when one of the men started shooting at his heels. He did not hear the man say, "We are the Ku Kluxers."

Grinning feebly, he said, "I was practically to the trestle by the time they shot again."

Said They Were Ku Kluxers

The third victim, Ernest Chester, was with Matthew when one of the men "shot twice down beside our feet not like he was trying to hit us and said, "That's your last prayer, we are the Ku Kluxers."

Matthew and Ernest both said that was the only time the words "Ku Kluxers" were mentioned.

They said the men were not robed or hooded.

"They had on suits and they kinda kept their heads turned so we couldn't see their faces," they added.

One of the investigating officers, W. O. Skinner, said afterwards that the boys had not mentioned the klan in reporting the incident.

Asked About White Woman

Matthew said one of the men in the two-tone, green Buick which they were forced to enter pointed out a white lady who was walking along the street.

"He asked us, 'What do you think of her; how do you like her?' And I said, 'I don't know nothing about white folks.'

"They said, 'Don't you know this is a white man's town?'

"They asked us our names," Matthew said, "and later they asked us if Mr. Duvaul (C. M. Duvaul, Spencer High School principal) had shook hands with the Brotherhood men and if he was a member of the NAACP.

"We told them we didn't know, but they just beat us some more."

The boys said the white men used only their fists in the beating and that they saw only one pistol.

Matthew's father, Sam Brown, 42, said of the affair: "It hurt me to my heart, I tried to teach him to treat people right."

Unable to Understand

Colored persons are "surprised" at the fuss being made over "Brotherhood Week." It is the mildest one that they have ever had, the AFRO was told. "All of the speeches have been toned down to mild generalities," one man said.

Sat. 3-5-49

The commission and the safety board call upon all of the law enforcement agencies to do their utmost to apprehend those who committed the crime and bring them to trial.

Suggest Reward

"Further, they urge the Governor of the State of Georgia to offer a reward for information leading to arrest and conviction of these guilty parties."

Mayor Walter A. Richard stated that he called the commissioners meeting since the newspapers and radio seem "quite disturbed about the alleged beating of these three

Commissioner Ralph Sayers stated, "These things can get more serious as time goes along. I've noticed similar occurrences during the past year, and they could lead to more serious actions."

In Phenix City, just across the line from here where the boys

anything like this," he said.

Talmadge Blamed

It is believed that Gov. Herman Talmadge's name was brought into the matter because his race-baiting speeches throughout the State have created sentiment of tension in many places.

"Incidents of this kind can be expected when there is a colored-hating Governor in the chair in Atlanta," the AFRO was told by a white person who asked that his name be withheld.

Columbus Chief of Police John G. N[illegible]berry said Saturday that his men are "working night and day" since report of the attack and that they are now following new lead "that may get us somewhere soon."

Out in the colored community, the odds were 10 to 1 that the white attackers would never be arrested and brought to trial.

White Georgians Observe Brotherhood Week—KKK Style

Afro-American

130

Baltimore

3-5

These youths in Columbus, Ga., aren't likely to hold pleasant memories of Brotherhood Week this year. After they had attended a Brotherhood Week program, they were kidnaped by five white men who asked about the program and then beat the boys. The men said that they were "Ku Kluxers." The photo shows, from left: Ernest Chester, 17, Robert Ford, 16, and Matthew Brown, 17.

Afr-3-5-49

FBI Investigates Attack On Negroes

Montgomery Advertiser

130

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—(AP)—The FBI said today it is looking into the reported beating of three teenage Negro boys by a group of white men near Phenix City, Ala., Wednesday night.

Montgomery Ala

The youths who reported the incident to local police live in Columbus, Ga. They said they were taken across the state line into Alabama, prior to the alleged assault.

The three are Robert Ford, 16, Matthew Brown and Ernest Chester, both 17. They reported they were badly beaten by five armed white men who questioned them about speeches that had been made at their school as part of Brotherhood Week, currently being celebrated throughout the nation.

Ad-2-26-49

In response to an inquiry, FBI headquarters here said the matter ahd been reported to the bureau and asserted:

"A preliminary inquiry is being made. The purposes are to get all of the facts and to determine if any federal law has been violated."

Negroes Beaten On State Line By Gang

Montgomery Advertiser

132

Montgomery Ala

COLUMBUS, GA., Feb. 24—(AP)—Three Negro boys told police today they had been wantonly beaten by five armed white men, all curiously interested in Brotherhood Week.

Police in both Columbus, Ga., and Phenix City, Ala., said tonight they still were unable to establish a motive for the beatings.

M-2-25-49

The boys, Robert Ford, 16, Matthew Brown and Ernest Chester, both 17, turned up a few minutes after midnight at the home of a white furniture salesman in nearby Phenix City.

Driven Across River

All told police later that the white men picked them up at gun point as they left a basketball game in Columbus and drove them across the river into Alabama.

There, the three reported, the men questioned them about speeches made at school concerning Brotherhood Week and the activities in Columbus of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Columbus and Phenix City police said the beating apparently took place near an isolated pump house.

Panicked Into Flight

The three boys were panicked into flight, after fruitless questioning and being made to disrobe, by a volley of pistol shots. They were beaten badly with fists, they reported.

Here the salesman, Rudolph Worthy, takes up the story:

Ad-2-25

"Just a few minutes after midnight the doorbell rang and when I answered there was a Negro boy there (Ford) in shots and socks. His arm was bleeding.

"I asked him what was the matter and he told me 'we was beat by white men' and 'could you take us home?' I told him I'd call police but when I came back from the phone he'd gone.

Left Bloody Prints

"He was shivering like he was scared to death and he left bloody fingerprints around the door bell. I got in my car after police arrived and we found two other Negro boys cutting across a field. They said they'd been taken up into the woods by five white men."

130

Ford, meanwhile, made his way back across the Chattahoochee River on a railroad trestle. He was found in the middle of town.

Police said "we think the boys' stories are true." All three boys were given first aid in Columbus. Ford had a ripped forearm where he apparently had plunged blindly into a fence. The other boys complained of severe stomach pains.

Ad-2-25-49

Once each year Brotherhood Week is celebrated under the auspices of national church organizations. This year three white men spoke at the Spencer High School on brotherhood, but neither Ford nor Chester heard the speeches. They do not attend the Spencer school. Brown, a student at Spencer, heard the talks.

13a 1949

Louisiana

Priest Remains 'Critically Ill'

13

Advertiser

Montgomery, Ala.

7-10-49

NEW ORLEANS, July 9 —(AP)—A Catholic priest slugged while changing his vestments in church remained unconscious today after a delicate brain operation to s[illegible]

The Rev. John E. Neifert had just completed an early morning mass yesterday in the Holy Redeemer Church and was changing his vestments when an assailant struck him with an iron cargo hook. Father Neifert suffered a compound fracture of the skull.

2a

The last sacraments of the Catholic Church were administered to Father Neifert yesterday.

The hospital reported this afternoon Father Neifert remained unconscious and that he was still on the "critically ill list."

Detective Chief Harry J. Daniels said a Negro he identified as Frank Bates has been booked on a charge of aggravated battery with intent to commit murder. The Negro took officers to his home, Daniels said, and officers recovered the priest's wallet.

13a 1949

Michigan

Cops Raid Negro Areas to Hide Flop in Reuther Case

Daily Worker, New York, N.Y. Fri. 6-3-49

BW

Fri. 6-3-49

Mich

By William Allan

DETROIT, June 2.—Police chief Harry Toy has instituted a reign of terror in the Negro communities here to cover the incompetence or indifference of local cops to finding the gunman who shot Victor Reuther. Toy ordered a 4,000-cop dragnet to "bring in underworld suspects," among whom he included "radical" groups.

This additional red herring across the already dim trail of the gunman, is being used by the notorious anti-Negro and red-baiting Detroit police department as an excuse for stepping up the intimidation of citizens in the Negro communities.

Fri. 6-3-49

A veritable reign of terror prevails in Detroit's east and west side Negro communities with hundreds of Negro workers and their families being harassed and questioned both outside and inside their homes.

To prevent the average citizen from becoming aware that an actual police state regime has existed in Detroit for the last 24 hours, Toy and his storm troopers have raided a number of pool rooms, betting parlors and put into jail their occupants. This is blazoned across newspapers as "245 underworld characters brought in by the dragnet."

Police admit that not a single known key underworld figure, up to time of writing, had been nabbed.

Police commisisoner Toy, better known as Headline Harry, also announced that all radical and "subversive" headquarters would be raided. Twenty-four hours after the dragnet started not a single cop had made his appearance at the headquarters of the Michigan Communist Party. Party leaders have been conducting their normal work as well as assisting labor and progressive groups to protect the civil rights of many Negro workers and others who are victims of this police state regime clamped on the city by Toy

Fri. 6-3-49

The Michigan Civil Rights Congress announced that its offices in the Reid Building, telephone Cadillac 6278, would be open 24 hours a day. The CRC said:

"The action of Toy institutes a police state based on the worst type of terror,

The CRC called upon the governor of Michigan, the U.S. Attorney General, the mayor and the city council to bring an end to this type of mass terror inflicted upon all citizens and especially the Negro people.

18-Month Sentence Handed Negro Vet for Defending Self

[illegible] 10-23-49

PONTIAC, Mich.—Giles Curry, 24-year-old Negro World War II veteran was sentenced here to 1½ years in the State Penitentiary at Jackson.

The Circuit Court here found him guilty of "felonious assault" with the help of an all white jury. Curry had previously ben "found guilty" in the early part of this year, when, with no knowledge of court room procedure, he waived a jury trial, the use of a lawyer, and pleaded "guilty." He was sentenced to 3½ to 10 years.

13a

Mich

Giles Curry was laid off at the Wilson foundry a year ago along with his brother Lester and a friend, both of whom lived with him in Crystal Beach government trailer project. When all of them were laid off funds ran short and they got a month behind in rent.

Felix McDavitt, manager of the project, lost no time in and seeking an injunction. The judge ruled that if Curry could pay he should not be evicted.

Curry borrowed rent money which management refused. On Jan. 16 McDavitt, his assistant, Young, a policeman and a constable came to Curry's trailer with four maintenance men to evict him.

Curry vainly tried to remonstrate with them, telling them he had nowhere to go and he had the rent. He saw that all were armed. Curry went to his car and got a 22 rifle to defend himself.

Many witnesses said that Curry fired two shots in the air while the others fired volley after volley. Curry gave himself up without a struggle.

13a 1949

Mississippi

Woman's Husband Stabs Her Lawyer

Time-Picayune
New Orleans La.
13a

(The Associated Press)

Laurel, Feb. 14—Ellis Cooper, attorney for a Negro woman in a divorce case, was stabbed by the woman's husband in a court anteroom here Monday. 2-15-49

The lawyer, stabbed just under the left shoulder blade, "will be all right" a doctor said after an examination at a hospital.

District Attorney P. G. Swartzfager said the Negro was Willie Ferrell, principal in a pending divorce action. Cooper represented Ferrell's wife.

Swartzfager said Cooper kicked the Negro away from him after the stabbing.

The attacker was seized by Deputy Sheriff Davis Grayson and Court Deputy Arthur Tillman as he fled the anteroom of the Laurel courthouse.

The attack occurred, Swartzfager said, as he and Cooper were talking during a court recess.

Overpowers 2 Prisoners, Saves Jailor

MERIDIAN, Miss.—Sherrod Brookins, who was sent to the Lauderdale county jail in disgrace more than a month ago, emerged this week a [illegible] Defender.

Brookins, who had run afoul of the federal prohibition law, foiled a jailbreak by two white prisoners and saved Night Jailer C. J. Brown from possible injury.

The two prisoners who might be fugitives this week were it not for Brookins' fast thinking and flying fists, are Billie Dotson and James D. Robinson. 11-5-49

They had been arrested for participating in the robbery of a poultry market in this city, burglarizing two businesses in Laurel and stealing two cars.

Brookins, who had been a good prisoner during his short sojourn at the county jail, had been elevated to the dubious status of a trusty, and was accompanying Night Jailer Brown on his rounds last week. 13a

Dotson and Robinson had been allowed to exercise in the big bullpen, and it was Brown's responsibility to lock them in their cells for the night.

Brown peered through the bars of the bullpen, saw no one and supposed that the two men had voluntarily returned to their cells. Defender

As Brown opened the door to the bullpen to make a closer inspection, Dotson and Robinson who had been hiding, rushed him and Brookins. 11-5-49

During the ensuing struggle Brookins overpowered Dotson, shoved him back in the cell and slammed the door. Then he went to the rescue of Brown who is 71 years of age.

He grabbed Robinson, forced him to release his hold on the old jailer, opened the cell door and tossed him in.

Very little could be done by grateful jail authorities for Brookins. His 30-day sentence was over so they patted him on the back and released him.

13a 1949 Mississippi

NEGRO GIVEN 10 YEARS

13a

Jury Convicts Man On Charge Of Stabbing Attorney

Commercial Appeal
Sun. 3-13-49
Memphis, Tenn.

LAUREL, Miss., March 12. — Found guilty by a circuit court jury of a charge of assault and battery with intent to kill and murder in connection with the serious stabbing of Ellis B. Cooper, prominant Laurel attorney, Willie Ferrell, 28-year-old negro, was Saturday afternoon sentenced to a 10-year term in the state penitentiary.

Sentence was passed by Judge F. Burkitt Collins.

Dephus Anderson, defense attorney, immediately filed a motion for a new trial. The motion was overruled by Judge Collins. The Hattiesburg attorney said he would appeal the jury's verdict and make application for bond for Ferrell.

Mobile Youth Found Beaten

Advertiser
13a
Montgomery, Ala.
Fri. 6-24-49

OCEAN SPRINGS, MISS., June 23—(AP)—A 19-year-old Mobile youth who told officers he had been kidnapped and robbed by three Negroes was found, badly beaten, here early today.

Jackson County Sheriff Guy Krebs said the young man, Pat Kelly, reported he was pulled into a car at Mobile last night by three men who asked him a question about a road map.

He told Krebs that the Negroes stuffed a rag in his mouth to keep him quiet, and after beating him severely, took five dollars from his pocket.

The youth was taken to a Biloxi, Miss., hospital. Doctors there said he was not badly injured, but was emotionally upset and suffering from shock.

13a 1949

Missouri

Free Five Involved In Park Racial Clash

ST. LOUIS — (ANP) — Three Negro and two white youths, who participated in a series of fights between races at Fairgrounds park last June 21, were freed by Police Judge John L. Waechter here last week for want of prosecution.

The youths were Vernon Allen, Elmer Braxton and Arthur Goodin, Negroes; and Edward Bain and Roland Erbar, both white. Goodin was suspected of stabbing another youth, but the victim of the stabbing refused to prosecute.

East Side Cafe Drops Jim Crow

Argus

9-23-49

The Civil Rights Congress of East St. Louis scored a victory Wednesday when eating counters and soda fountains in the five and ten cent store on Collinsville avenue, the Broadway of the East Side ceased segregation. The organization is now fighting for employment of Negro clerks in the stores and have been promised that they will be hired during the Christmas rush period.

President Ben T. Phillips of the Congress, who had led pickets in the campaign against the Jim Crow, was served in the Kress store Wednesday.

The Civil Rights Congress had threatened to bring suit against the stores on the main street for violation of the State civil rights code in refusing to serve Negroes. The stores were advised by Atty. Rains to relent.

A suit for $500 was recently filed against the exclusive Caruso restaurant in Chicago by stage, screen and radio star Lena Horne for refusal of service. She was scheduled to open an engagement at the Chase Hotel Star Light Roof night spot this Thursday.

Seek Justice for Beaten Negro

Daily Worker, New York N.Y.

Wed. May 25-49

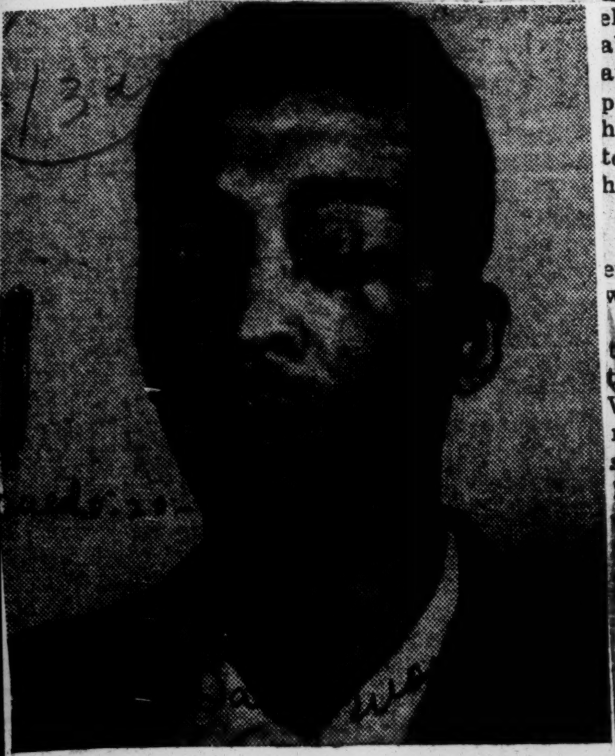
Wed 5-25-49

Justice in the brutal attack on John H. Monroe by hoodlums is being sought by the Inwood Committee for Justice in the Monroe case. Monroe, a building superintendent in the upper Manhattan community, was beaten last week by three men who were arrested only after the intervention of the Civil Rights Congress and the American Labor Party. Monroe is shown at right, a day after the assault.

13a N.Y.

The Committee plans to circulate a petition in the community urging the authorities to clean out a local saloon, which is a hotbed of anti-Nergo hoodlumism, or revoke its license. The hoodlums who attacked Monroe were hanging out in the bar when they rushed out into the street and jumped on Monroe as he passed.

Police of the 34th Precinct who were on the scene after the vicious attack refused to arrest the hoodlums. Then Chief Magistrate Edgar Bromberger wanted to reduce the charges to disorderly conduct. Only at the insistence of CRC attorney Joseph Tauber, did Bromberger hold the men for simple assault.



PORTER, 62, LEFT FOR DEAD IN BASEMENT OF TRANS-LUX

N.Y. Age

13a N.Y.

By JESSE H. WALKER

(Photo on Page 2)

New York Sat. 7-2-'49

Walter Ormond, 62, a porter at the Trans-Lux newsreel theatre, 49th St. and Broadway, lies in St. Clare's Hospital today, his head swathed in bandages, his condition described as "fair," the victim of an unpublicized attack in the basement of the theatre as police in the Broadway sector sought the attacker.

7-2-49

Ormond will have been in the hospital 16 days this Saturday, since the savage attack on him by one or more persons unknown to the police. Since he's been in a semi-conscious state the majority of the time, the elderly man hasn't been able to tell detectives who attacked him. Though five persons have been taken to his room, he's been unable to identify any of them as his assailant.

Didn't Know Wife

For a week Ormond was even unable to recognize his wife, Catherine.

Ormond was attacked in the basement of the theatre on the night of June 16. Working from 4 p.m. to midnight, he had gone downstairs around 10 p.m. to eat his lunch. Later an usher went down and found the porter lying unconscious in a pool of blood.

13a

Ormond had been struck on the side of the head by a board, some of his teeth had been knocked out and he had been stabbed around 15 times in the head with a chisel. Doctors took 25 stitches to close his wounds and at first, because of his age, despaired for his life. The man's skull was also fractured.

7-2-49

Strangely enough, no daily newspaper mentioned the attack on Ormond, despite the prominence of the place in which he was so brutally assaulted. A native of Palatka, Fla., he had worked at the Trans-Lux for 5½ years.

Today, Mrs. Ormond sits in her one-room apartment at 168 W. 126th St. waiting and hoping her husband will recover.

Mrs. Ormond, who suffers from diabetes and lost her left leg a few years ago, believes that if their daughter, Gloria, could see her father maybe he would respond faster

"Every time I mention Gloria's name he raises up in bed," she says "He says he only wants to get well so he can take care of Gloria."

But Gloria can't see her father. The hospital has a rule that children under 14 years are not allowed in the wards. Gloria is seven.

The only clue police have as to who attacked Ormond is a "Joe" he keeps saying "knows all about it." Who "Joe" is, however, they don't know. And Ormond's head wounds never allow him to become coherent long enough to further identify him.

7-2-49

Meanwhile, while Ormond's in the hospital, there's no one to provide for Gloria and her mother.

White Man Fined $50 for Assault on Matron

Afro-American 13a N.C

Sat. 10-15-49

Baltimore, Md.

Guest at Exclusive Ball in Swank Hotel Convicted of Striking Employee on Elevator

RALEIGH, N.C.—An example of just how chivalrous Southern "gentlemen" really are came out in City Court here last week when a guest at the exclusive Debutante Ball held at the swank Sir Walter Hotel here Sept. 9 and 10, was fined $50 for striking a colored woman employee of the hotel.

The assault victim, Mrs. May Hunt of 4 Bladen St., who was herself cleared of an assault charge for defending herself in the melee, had come to the aid of her daughter, Miss Mildred Hunt, who was working as an extra girl operating an elevator.

The unchivalrous party guest convicted of attacking Mrs. Hunt was Giles Beal Jr. of Gastonia, who admitted that he had been drinking, but stated that he was not intoxicated when the fracas occurred on Miss Hunt's elevator after he had tried to bring a chair on it.

Goes to Daughter's Aid

When Beal refused to remove the chair from the elevator, Miss Hunt called to her mother for aid, court testimony revealed.

The mother stated that when she arrived on the scene and instructed her daughter not to move the elevator until Beal took the chair off, the man cursed and struck her three times.

A couple of other guests present for the Debutante Ball grabbed Beal, according to the woman, who admitted that she struck him back when he was being held and threw a piece of a broken drinking glass at him as he walked away from the scene after being released.

Woman Badly Hurt

Officer John Smith of the Police Department testified that he was called to investigate the trouble and found Mrs. Hunt apparently in "bad shape." He said that she couldn't stand up or talk coherently and appeared "about half knocked out."

The woman, herself, stated that she was hospitalized for two weeks with a fractured jaw and other head injuries.

Another Guest Unruly

Beal was the second defendant tried on charges stemming from the two-day ball, which is supposed to be one of the South's most elegant social affairs, attended only by the creme-de-la-creme of Southern aristocracy.

The other unruly guest, William P. Mayo of Washington, N.C., was fined $11.95 for disorderly conduct in pulling a fire hose to the floor from a rack in a hall at the hotel.

13a 1949

Pennsylvania

White Mob Beats 2 Teen-Age Boys

PHILADELPHIA

Severely beaten by a gang of hoodlums who attacked him and his cousin at 12th and Morris Sts., David Montgomery, 17, of 535 Centrell St., was treated and released, Monday, at Methodist Hospital.

Afro-American

Montgomery, who has volunteered for the army and expects to be inducted this month, said he and Paul Williams, 15, of Woodbury, N.J., were beaten after they ignored epithets.

The two boys who had just left the home of an aunt, Mrs. Eloise Tucker at 729 Mercy St., and were on their way to the Centrell St address.

Dat. 9-3-49

Five suspects, all white, were later arrested and held in $600 bail for a further hearing on Friday, charged with aggravated assault and battery.

Montgomery, who suffered injuries to his ribs and possible skull fracture, said the thugs—some of them older men—kicked him after he had fallen. He was also hit in the head with a milk bottle.

13a 1949 South Carolina

DRAGGED AWAY, BEATEN BY GANG, NEGRO, 76, SAYS

Chicago Daily News

Farmer Stripped of Clothes

13a

Columbia, S. C., May 13 (AP)—A 76 year old Negro farmer reported last night that about 15 white men dragged him from his home, stripped his clothing from him, and beat him.

13

The Negro, Shelton Lorick, told reporters of the State, a Columbia newspaper, that unmasked intruders carried him by motor car to a wooded section about 6 miles from his home and pummeled him with their fists Sunday night.

He said he had made no report to police.

Chicago, Ill.

Lorick suggested two possible motives for the beating. About 10 years ago, he said, he shot a white man in a dispute over a chicken, and during the ride Sunday night one of the men accused him of "encouraging white people to come to his home."

Sheriff Gets Call

When he replied that white persons often came to his farm to buy eggs and chickens, the Negro farmer related, the man answered, "We white folks are going to run this state."

Sat. 5-14-49

Sheriff H. Oswald Cromer said he "got a call about this early Sunday morning" but since had heard no more about the case. Asked whether he planned to investigate the Negro's account of the affair, the sheriff said he would begin an investigation.

Lorick said that after his assailants left him, he went to the home of a white family nearby. The family clothed him, he said, and then brought him to a Columbia hospital.

5-14-49

Hospital attendants said Lorick's condition was fair.

Six More Beaten By Masked Band

The Advertiser

Montgomery, Ala.

CHATTANOOGA, TENN., May 11—(AP)—Six white men said tonight they were severely beaten in a new outbreak of violence by masked and robed men. Thu.

5-12-49

The victims, three of whom are in their teens, said they were beaten Saturday night by approximately a score of hooded men who entered a church at Dolly Pond, 25 miles from here. They said their attackers wore the uniform of the Ku Klux Klan.

The sheriff of Hamilton County ordered a full investigation.

Negro Boy Beaten

B'ham News

Birmingham, Ala.

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., June 6—(AP)—Chattanooga police said an unidentified Negro boy was reported beaten and kidnapped by five white youths here late tonight.

Bystanders said the Negro was beaten before he was forced into the car, which they said had Georgia license plates. Tue. 6-7-49

The State Highway Patrol and Rossville, Ga., officers were asked to join in the search.

Negro Said Beaten At Chattanooga

13a

Atlanta Constitution

Atlanta, Ga.

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn.—(AP)—Chattanooga police said an unidentified Negro boy was reported beaten and kidnapped by five white youths here late Monday night. Wed. 6-8-49

Bystanders said the Negro was beaten before he was forced into the car, which they said had Georgia license plates. 13a

6-8-49

The State Highway Patrol and Rossville, Ga., officers were asked to join in the search.

Seeks Death Counts

Chattanooga, Tenn., May 13 (AP)—Atty. Gen. [illegible] Smith says he will ask that the hooded men who attacked six white persons near here Saturday be indicted under a state law carrying the death penalty.

Chicago Daily

Ill.

13a

Smith made the statement yesterday following the latest of seven incidents of recent violence by hooded men in this area.

Chicago, Ill.

At the same time Sheriff Frank Burns promised to redouble his efforts to identify the men who blackjacked the six men and boys Saturday.

Sat. 5-14-49

13a 1949

Texas

TEXAS LAWYER WOULD BAIL NEGRO FROM JAIL FOR "PLEASURE OF KILLING HIM"

Cleveland Guide

Negro's Bond in Minor Traffic Argument is $25,000

13a

Date 7-16-49

DALLAS, Tex., July 16—(PINS)—The characteristic way of the south—to take the law into its own hands—flared here last Saturday, when Noah Roark, an attorney, offered to bail Ozzie B. Watson, 31, a Negro prisoner out of jail for the "Pleasure of killing him." Cleveland (6) Ohio

The lawyer was jailed, but quickly released when he took it all back and promised he wouldn't "do it."

But get a load of this: Criminal Court trial Judge Joe B. Brown,, who had the lawyer locked-up, then later released, earlier in the trial said: if he had been in Roark's shoes in a June 18, argument with Roark's wife, he would have killed him (Watson).

It all happened during a habeas corpue hearing for Watson, who had been jailed on charges of threatening to kill Attorney Roark, and to do bodily harm to Mrs. Roark who had much to say about a minor traffic accident involving watson and her husband. He was placed under $25,000 peace bond.

Roark was jailed for shouting to the judge: "If you want Watson to live, you'd better keep him in jail. I'm going to kill him if I ever get the chance—As a matter of fact I'll post his bond for the pleasure of doing it."

Watson's lawyer told the judge "You heard the threat, Under the law it's your duty to place Mr. Roark under peace bond." The judge told Chief Deputy Sheriff Millard Sweatt to jail Roark, but the lawyer immediately posted bond, and after an informal conference, they all shook hand and went their ways. Watson remained in jail awaiting trial.

Negro Fugitive Wins Again In His Battle

The News (13B)

NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J., July 22—(AP)—A 21-year-old Negro fugitive has won the second round in his fight to stay out of an Alabama prison camp.

Middlesex County Judge Charles M. Morris yesterday freed the youth, Julius V. Harper, from an Alabama charge of stealing $25 worth of clothes. The judge acted after Harper testified he could not have taken the clothing because he was in prison at the time of the alleged robbery.

Birmingham, Ala

On Tuesday Federal Judge Philip Forman of Trenton ruled that Harper did not have to go back to the Alabama prison camp on other robbery charges. Harper had testified he was beaten into confessing robberies after being arrested at the age of 16 for stealing five dollars.

The second Alabama detainer was served on the fugitive as he was being released from Middlesex County prison on Judge Forman's orders. Fri. 7-22-49

U.S. Court Denies Negro's Extradition

The Advertiser (13B) Montgomery, Ala

TRENTON, N. J., July 19 —(AP) — Federal Judge Philip Forman today denied Alabama's request for extradition of a 21-year-old Negro fugitive. Wed. 7-20-49

Upholding the Negro's plea that he was beaten into signing a confession, Forman's opinion said "although his testimony lacked corroberation in many instances, it carried conviction when fitted into the pattern of the realities as they are known."

The Negro, Julius V. Harper, escaped from an Alabama prison farm July, 1945, while serving a 10-year sentence for robbery. Harper was 15 at the time of his court hearing in Mobile County, Ala., Forman noted.

In his decision, Forman said "the failure to supply counsel rendered the criminal proceedings (in Mobile County) so apt as to result in injustice and as to be fundamentally unfair."

Beating Of Negro Denied In Mobile

(13B) The Advertiser

MOBILE, ALA., July 20—(AP)—State Solicitor Carl Booth today branded the statement of a 21-year-old Negro fugitive that a confession was beaten out of him as "absolutely false without a word of truth." Advertiser

Federal Judge Philip Foreman, at Trenton, N. J., denied Alabama's request for extradition of Julius Vance Harper, Alabama prison farm escapee, yesterday. He was serving a 10-year sentence for robbery when he fled in 1945.

Harper claimed he was arrested by Mobile officers for the theft of five dollars, then beaten and threatened into confessing that he had committed other robberies. He was recaptured after escaping to New Jersey.

The Negro claimed he was not supplied counsel at his trial in Mobile. Montgomery, Ala

Solicitor Booth said he was present when Harper was captured in the bushes behind a house which he had just burglarized. Thu. 7-21-49

Court records showed he was turned over to Juvenile authorities, then returned to Circuit Court custody as an "incorrigible." A Mobile attorney, Graham Sullivan, was named to defend him, Booth said. P. 3

Booth said Harper was 16 at the time. "He admitted to something like 19 burglaries, but due to his age we brought him to trial only on one case," he said.

Detective Bill Lami called the Negro "one of the best barefoot burglars that ever hit this city."

13b 1949

Alabama (California)

BROCKS' LAWYER CITES DEFECTS IN HIS CASE

Los Reporter

(Calif)

Los Angeles Calif

13b

Conviction of Joseph Brocks on charges of theft of a bicycle and his subsequent sentencing to 10 years on an Alabama chain gang were based on indictments that were defective and the defective indictments rendered the sentence invalid.

That was the preliminary opinion expressed last week by James L. McCain, a New Orleans attorney who went to Alabama to investigate the case of the 30-year-old Negro member of ILWU Warehousemen's Local 26 in Los Angeles. M-2-4-49

California's governor Earl Warren, overriding the appeals of a CIO delegation, last week signed extradition papers sending Brocks back to Alabama to serve out all but a few months of his 10-year chain gang sentence.

Governor Warren's action in signing the papers for extradition of Brocks was criticized this week by California CIO Council Secretary Bjorne Halling.

"The governor's action in this matter is to be regretted. He didn't consider adequately either the legal or the human aspects of the case," Halling said.

"The mechanical, legalistic approach to the extradition process is not worthy of the high office of the governor.

"So far as the CIO is concerned, we are going to fight every inch of the way to see to it that Brocks is not turned over to southern lynch justice."

13b

McCain, retained by the ILWU to investigate the history of Brocks' conviction, wrote Norman Leonard, the union's attorney that:

"The indictments charge no date of offense. In the crime of burglary and grand larcency, I am confident that the date is essential and that the indictments are defective due to lack of duce process and that the sentences are invalid when based on a defective indictment." M-2-4-49

In Los Angeles, George Reardon, atorney for Brocks' employers, Friedman Bag Co., and also for the Civil Rights Congress in this case, said that thought the indictments and sentences may be invalid, Brocks might still be returned to Alabama for retrial as a result of Warren's action in signing the extradition papers.

He added, however, that a fight will be made to keep Brocks from being taken back to Alabama at a Los Angeles court hearing for a writ of habeas corpus. The hearing is scheduled for Feb. 10.

Warren u[illegible] to rescind extradition on new evidence

The Tribune

(Calif)

Los Angeles Calif

Sat. 2-5-49

The Civil Rights Congress said today it has proof that Joseph Brocks, for whom Governor Warren signed extradition papers last week, was denied "benefit of counsel" in Alabama. Certified copies of the Grand Jury indictments and minutes of the court "bear out completely the contention that Brocks did not receive a fair trial Brocks did not receive a fair trial," the Congress said.

Sat. 2-5-49

"Our judgment has been completely vindicated," said Margie Robinson, chairman of the Civil Rights Congress Minorities Committee, "and indicates that our fight to prevent Governor Warren from signing the extradition papers was well founded. We now feel that redoubled efforts on the part of the people is even more necessary to get the Governor to rescind the order for extradition."

Alleged proof of the unfair trial was obtaine dthrough efforts of the CIO Warehouseman's Local 26, of which Brocks is a shop steward, working with the Civil Rights Congress and was supplied by CRC Attorney James I. McCain, of Louisiana, who went to Grove Hill, Ala., Miss Robinson said, to get the records of the trial. 2-5-49

13b

Brocks is facing a 10-year sentence on an Alabama chain gang for burglary. Letters, wires, and extradition papers on the basis of petitions were sent to Governor Warren asking him not to sign the extradition papers on the basis that Brocks did not and would not receive justice in Alabama.

George S. Gordon, attorney for Brocks in Los Angeles, said he was writing a letter to Governor Warren to acquaint him with the new developments and to urge him to rescind the order.

GEORGIA OFFICIAL IRATE

Chain-Gang Fugitive Free Man in Michigan

Detroit, Mich. [illegible]

13 b, Ga (Mich)

Sam Bearden, 37, won't go back to a Georgia chain gang. He walked out of Recorder's Court a free man Thursday.

Judge Gerald W. Groat dismissed a fugitive warrant after Gov. Williams had refused to let Bearden be taken back to Georgia.

The Governor's action threw Georgia's attorney general, Eugene Cook, into a rage.

Free Press Photo

SAM BEARDEN
No more chains

Cook called Gov. Williams a "turncoat on constitutional government."

Fri. 11-11-49

Cook asked the Georgia governor, Herman Talmadge, to take up this "flagrant violation of the principles of comity" at the southern governors' conference, in Biloxi, Miss., Nov. 21.

* * *

"IT SEEMS THAT Gov. Williams . . . has chosen to play to the gallery of the radical Negro press," Cook thundered.

Citing Detroit's race riots and Negro "slums," Cook added:

"Considering these facts, it ill befits Gov. Williams to accuse the State of Georgia of denying its Negro citizens 'fair treatment'."

Gov. Williams said he had no immediate comment.

Bearden said he was sentenced in 1935 to life in prison for shooting his sister.

He claimed the shot was accidental, while he was cleaning a gun.

The defendant said he pleaded guilty to first-degree murder on advice of his attorney. The lawyer told him he'd serve a maximum of three years, Bearden said.

* * *

IN PRISON nine years before he escaped, Bearden reported that he worked on chain gangs in shackles.

He displayed deep scars on his wrists and ankles, which he said he had received while being suspended from a rack.

Guards beat him with their fists, he charged. For three weeks he was placed in a totally dark cell and got nothing but bread and water, he said.

Meanwhile, another Georgia authority, J. B. Hatchett, assistant corrections director, said he was "tired of dam yankees looking down their noses at Georgia's prison system."

Bearden commented: "Back there they'd kill me now."

Mich, Governor Bans Extradition

LANSING, Mich. — Declaring that the penalty has been paid, Gov. G. Mennen Williams refused Wednesday to extradite an escaped convict from Georgia.

Atlanta, Ga.

13 b, Ga (Mich)

Thurs. 11-10-49

Gov. Williams decided that "cruel and unusual punishment" Sam Bearden received in Georgia "is in violation of our Federal Constitution."

Bearden had said that he served "nine years of imprisonment under extremely bad conditions." The Michigan governor announced:

"It is my opinion that Bearden has paid a penalty for his crime not contemplated under our constitution and that he should not be returned to Georgia for further punishment."

Daily World

It was brought out in the hearing that Bearden shot his sister while cleaning a gun in his home. She died in Bearden's arms. Williams said that testimony presented revealed that there had been no quarrel before the shooting. It was the governor's opinion that the crime warranted no stiffer sentence than manslaughter.

11-10-49

13b 1949

Alabama (New Jersey)

Jurist Upholds Escapee's Plea That Life Is at Stake

Afro-American,

7-30-49 Baltimore, Md.

Contends He Was Denied Fair Trial; Was Serving 10 Years in $5 Theft

TRENTON — Federal Judge Philip Forman on Tuesday denied Alabama's request for extradition of Julius V. Harper, 21, who escaped from a prison farm in July, 1945, while serving a 10-year sentence for the theft of $5.

Upholding Harper's plea that his life was threatened when he was told to sign his name to a confession, Judge Forman's opinion said:

"Although his testimony lacks corroboration in many instances, it carries conviction when fitted into the pattern of the realities as they are known."

Harper contended that he was when convicted, related some of the brutalities suffered in the Alabama prison, saying, "Somebody got a beating whenever the warden got drunk."

He joined the Army after his escape, received an honorable discharge and re-enlisted early last year but was let out when military authorities learned that he was a fugitive.

Deputies from the Middlesex County sheriff's office arrested him as he stepped from Camp Kilmer after his discharge.

Trial Held Unfair

Harper contenled that he was denied counsel when he was arrested for burglary in Alabama and Judge Forman noted that the Alabama Constitution grants the right to such counsel.

However, the jurist said the Alabama Constitution does not require the State to appoint lawyers, but noted that Harper's youth and lack of experience made his trial unfair under such circumstances.

Harpre said that when he was arrested after the $5 burglary in Mobile in 1943, police threatened and beat him until he signed a confession admitting a series of burglaries.

Raps Prison Conditions

According to his story at the Alabama State Prison in Montgomery, he was given food contaminated with worms and was beaten because he would not eat it.

13b 1949

Alabama (Pennsylvania)

'Faces Sure Lynching' If He's Sent To State Negro's Lawyers Say

B'ham News
B'ham, Ala.

13a

PHILADELPHIA, July 13—(AP)—Attorneys for a 23-year-old fugitive from Alabama have declared they plan to fight any move to return him because there he "faces certain lynching."

Ave. 7-13-49

The fugitive is Fletcher Mills, a five-foot, six-inch Negro now jailed at Moyamensing Prison. State and federal warrants have been issued for his extradition to the Southern state.

The key court battle won't take place until Fall then Mills' attorneys go before the Third U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals. That court earlier this year refused to send a Negro convict back to Georgia, holding a state can't extradite a prisoner it "treated cruelly and inhumanely."

But on Friday Mills will appear before Judge Clare G. Flenerty in Quarter Sessions Court here. The state will argue for extradition of Mills under orders of Gov. James H. Duff.

7-13-49

Albert B. Gerber, counsel for Mills, said he does not believe the state has any jurisdiction since the U. S. government took over the case, charging Mills with violating the fugitive act.

* * *

HE GAVE THIS ACCOUNT of the case:

134

In 1945, Mills, a farmer, got into an argument with Roy Terry, a white landlord. Terry attacked him and Mills defended himself with a penknife, cutting Terry.

A lynch mob came after Mills and he fled. Since then he has lived at Detroit, New York and Philadelphia, with Alabama searchers unable to locate him.

Alabama officials turned the case over to the federal authorities, claiming Mills violated the federal fugitive act by going across state lines.

Mills was arrested by FBI agents here last March.

Negro Seeks To Balk Return To Alabama

B'ham News
B'ham, Ala.

PHILADELPHIA, July 15—(AP)—A 23-year-old fugitive from Alabama today was held in $1,000 bail for a hearing Aug. 12 on efforts to return him to Alabama.

Attorneys for Fletcher Mills, five-foot, six-inch Negro said earlier this week they would fight extradition of Mills because he faces "certain lynching" in Alabama.

13b (a)

Judge Clare G. Flenerty ordered the bail after defense counsel said it would take at least until the second week in August to assemble witnesses and bring them here from the South.

Jue 7-15-49

Albert B. Gerber, counsel for Mills, will go before the Third U. S. Circuit Court in the Fall for the key court battle. The Circuit Court earlier this year refused to send another Negro convict back to Georgia holding a state can't extradite a prisoner it "treated cruelly and inhumanely."

Gerber said Mills, a farmer, got into an argument with Roy Terry, a white landlord, in 1945. Terry attacked Mills, Gerber said, and the Negro defended himself with a penknife, cutting Terry.

The attorney further said that a lynch mob came after Mills and he fled. Since then Mills has lived at Detroit, New York and Philadelphia with Alabama searchers unable to locate him.

7-15-49

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2 State Negro Fugitives Fight Return Orders

The Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.
Jue. 7-12-49

'Face Certain Lynching' For Cutting Farmer, Says Prisoner

PHILADELPHIA, July 11—(AP)— Attorneys for a 23-year-old Negro fugitive from Alabama said today they plan to fight any move to return him to Alabama because there he "faces certain lynching."

Jue. 7-12-49

The fugitive is Fletcher Mills, now jailed at Moyamensing Prison. State and federal warrants have been issued for his extradition.

13b

Case Set For Fall

The key court battle won't take place until fall when Mills' attorneys go before the Third U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals which earlier this year refused to send a Negro convict back to Georgia holding a state can't extradite a prisoner it "treated cruelly and inhumanly."

Ala (Pa)

But on Friday Mills will appear before quarter sessions court here. At that time the state will argue for extradition of Mills under orders of Governors James H. Duff.

Mills' lawyer said he does not believe the state has any jurisdiction since the U. S. government took over the case, charging Mills with violating the fugitive act.

He gave this account of the case:

In 1945, Mills, a farmer, got into an argument with Roy Terry, a white landlord. Terry attacked him and Mills defended himself with a penknife, cutting Terry.

A lynch mob came after Mills and he fled. Since then he has lived at Detroit, New York and Philadelphia with Alabama searchers unable to locate him.

Jue. 7-12-49

TRENTON, N. J., July 11—(AP)— A 21-year-old Negro fugitive today fought extradition to the Alabama prison farm where he said "somebody got a beating whenever the warden got drunk."

Testifying in federal court here, Julius V. Harper said he fled in July, 1945, while serving a 10 year sentence for robbery.

He told Federal Judge Philip Forman that, after being arrested by Mobile County officers for theft of five dollars, he was frightened into signing a confession that he had committed other robberies.

"I signed my name to it because they threatened to kill me if I didn't," Harper testified.

Cook Pushes Extradition Of Escapee

(13) The Constitution

Atlanta, Ga.

Wed. 7-13-49

Atty. Gen. Eugene Cook yesterday intensified his campaign to remove the "chain gang" stigma from the Georgia prison system.

He and Asst. Martin H. Peabody dispatched special motions to be filed in the U. S. Third Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia in the widely published fight to extradite Leon Johnson, a Georgia Negro escapee, who has won temporary sanctuary in Pittsburgh jail.

Wed 7-13-49

The Circuit Court on May 17 refused to order Johnson extradicted in a decision giving credence to his stories of alleged brutalities in the Georgia prison system.

Cook asked the tribunal to remand the case to a Pennsylvania district court so Georgia could submit evidence and testimony to rebut Johnson's claims of brutality.

Cook submitted affidavits from the present and a past penitentiary warden and from Acting Director J. B. Hatchett of the Corrections Department setting out what they could prove concerning humane treatment in the Georgia penal system.

If the motion is granted, the Attorney General personally will present and argue the State's case.

(13b) (See Memphis World

Illinois Governor Frees Ga. Woman 'Framed' By Sheriff

Memphis, Tenn.

CHICAGO — (ANP) — Mrs. Laurice Jefferson, 39-year-old native of Fort Valley Ga., who fled from a Macon, Ga., workhouse after having been sentenced to hard labor on a frame-up, was given her freedom here last week by Gov. Stevenson. She was arrested here several weeks ago at the request of Georgia authorities.

Jul. 16-1949

Her freedom was based on her story that she was framed by Sheriff W. H. Beeland of Fort Valley when she refused to testify that the Macon chief of police was taking graft.

She said she was arrested in Macon by the sheriff who tried to force her to sign a statement that the police chief was collecting graft from bootleggers. When she refused to do so, the sheriff charged her with possessing a pint of whiskey. Brought into court, she was sentenced to 18 months in the workhouse.

4-19-49

Mrs. Jefferson escaped and came to Chicago, where she was rearrested. When Sheriff Beeland came to take her back to Macon, he was ordered to appear at a hearing before Gov. Stevenson. He admitted that he had tried to force Mrs. Jefferson to sign the statement and also that he had sent her to the workhouse on a false charge.

Alabama Loses Again to Huff

Courier

Sat. 9-24-49

CHICAGO—(ANP) ~~—Extradition~~ and Alabama lost another case here last week to Atty. William Henry Huff when he saved Clarence Foster from being returned South.

Pittsburgh, Pa.

In Alabama Foster had been arrested in Birmingham in 1946 and sentenced to nine months and fined $250 for allegedly stealing an electric hot plate valued at $13. He was convicted although the complaint charged another man with the alleged crime. Since he could not pay the fine he was told he would have to serve an additional 125 days.

13b Ga (See)

Last April Alabama made a request for Foster. With the help of Max R. Naiman, attorney provided by the Civil Rights Congress, Huff had Foster freed by Chief Justice Lynch at Criminal Court. This is Huff's seventy-sixth straight extradition victory.

Prison Camp Again

It is always news in America when a judge overrules an order directed from the Governor's office. Yet that is precisely what happened Monday, when a Cincinnati judge, Charles S. Bell, sitting in the Hamilton County Common Pleas court, overruled Ohio's Governor Frank L. Lausche autherization to extradite to Georgia an escaped prisoner.

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World

The prisoner, Willie Ross, Jr., said that he was manhandled and struck with a pick-axe handle while serving on the gang at Bellwood, Georgia. Judge Bell believed his story of brutality and therefore, overruled the order from the governor to honor the extradition request from Georgia.

Thurs. 8-18-49

Commenting on the action Tuesday, Governor Talmadge charged that the State was creating "a dumping ground for convicts." To which Judge Bell said:

13b

"I have sent others back to Georgia on extradition proceedings. Afterwards, I ascertained the treatment they got at least caused me to mingle with the idea that they were treated by those with personal vengeance."

Ga (See)

A Chicago Federal judge only a week ago, refused to honor an extradition request for an escaped convict on the same plea that his life would be endangered if he came back to Alabama. In recent years, particularly since some responsible heads of state governments have been bitter in their campaigns against Negroes, judge after judge in the Federal courts have either denied extradition requests or have requested specific pledges from the states that they will safeguard prisoners thus returned.

Other important items of evidence of brutality come from such threats as that of the Police Commissioner in Birmingham last Saturday night, who when informed that a Negro attorney said the city's new Zoning Ordinance was unconstitutional and therefore, unenforceable, shouted:

"Just let him or any of his gang move into an area zoned for white folk and we'll show him whether it can be enforced." In a series of nationally prominent cases, the United States Supreme Court struck down restrictive covenant cases, declaring them illegal, unjust and unconstitutional.

There are other instances where northern jurists must wonder if laws under which Negroes and whites live in the South are applied with honesty and without bias. Because police officers didn't like the attitude of an 18-year-old bystander at the Birmingham bombing, they lost sight of how they might secure the names of the bomb-throwers and pounced in to make a case against the Negro youth. Such cases and others are forcing attacks upon us by what we like to sneer at as "Outsiders."

Toombs County Back In The News

In Chicago Friday, a Federal District Judge refused to honor an extradition request of Alabama authorities which would return a 28-year-old Negro fugitive to an Alabama prison camp.

13b Ga (See)

The Negro, Andrew Williams, told Federal Judge Michael Igoe, that he was beaten and fed a diet of castor oil, and that he escaped from prison in 1943 after he had served two years of a 15-year term for stealing a watch.

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World

Stories like that require much evidence for their proof. Judges, especially Federal Judges, do not move until they are fairly convinced that their opinions and decisions stand a strong chance of being upheld by other courts above them. Thus, when a fugitive from justice, either black or white, wins a favorable opinion from such a judge, it can be safely predicted that the evidence is preponderant.

Sun. 8-14-49

A large part of such evidence is gained through such occurrences as the trial of Robert Mallard by Toombs County officials last winter. It is difficult for a northern jurist to believe that such trials are possible in the South today. But smart lawyers are ever alert and exploit these occurrences to support cases like that of Williams against extradition.

Now comes another story, equally as hard to believe. It happened last Sunday in Lyons, Georgia. It was a 50-year-old Negro, Lemon Ricks, who had been slain by a white man, who implicated two others. As his explanation for the shooting, the Sheriff, Robert E. Gray, said that Ricks had a bad reputation. When Mallard was slain, it was explained that he was a "biggety" Negro. Is there any wonder that a Georgia white man would have the courage to admit openly that a white man is better off if he is a member of the Ku Klux Klan? What chance has a Negro in Georgia or elsewhere in the Klan ridden states if a white man can count on no protection from the law he is being taxed to support?

We have a friend who was at one time Assistant Attorney General for the State of New Jersey. In his early days of legal practice he said he made the mistake of quoting a southern judge to support one of his cases. A white lawyer friend met him a day later, he said, and admonished him "never quote the opinion of a southern judge in cases where you have so much at stake as your suit yesterday. For down there justice is based upon color and race, rather than upon law and evidence."

Of course, the South has come a long ways since those days back in 1922. We have southern jurists as upright and clearcut as nothern judges. But unfortunately, there are still too many judges, juries and law enforcement officials who lose sight of law and evidence when race and color questions enter the equation.

13b 1949

Gerogia (Massachusetts)

Atlanta Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

13B Ga.

Second Rebuff Given State's Prison Camps

Fri. 5-27-49

BOSTON, Mass. — (SNS) — Georgia prison treatment is under fire from a new source with the announcement of Gov. Paul A. Dever, of Mass. Wednesday that he would not extradite Willis E. Daniel, alias Sonny Daniel, who escaped a Georgia labor camp after serving six years of a 20-year sentence for a $15 robbery.

This was the second rebuff Ga. has received in a many weeks. The Third Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia, by a 5-1 decision, refused to extradite Leon Johnson, 34, who escaped in 1943, from a Cobb County jail while under sentence for murder.

13A

This second blow at penal affairs in the state of Georgia came at the time the state was hiring a Pittsburgh lawyer to help fight a legal battle over the custody of Johnson.

Meanwhile, a Baltimore newspaper charged that three of the main officers involved in the slaying of eight Negro convicts at Folkston, Georgia are following the same pattern of terrorism against prisoners at a new Georgia work camp to which they were transferred after being acquitted of violating the prisoners' civil liberties in Federal Court at Brunswick, Georgia. The jury that freed the men deliberated only eleven minutes.

INFORMS GOVERNOR

Gov. Dever in refusing to extradite Daniels made known the fact to Gov. Herman Talmadge of Ga. in a letter, after reviewing the case.

Dever said he was bearing in mind the recommendation of mercy made by the jury which convicted Daniel, the nature of the offense, and the six years at hard labor Daniels has served before escaping August 21, 1944, from the Jefferson County Public Works camp, at Louisville.

Dever claimed representations had been made that Daniel's conviction was based on perjured evidence and that he has been abused during his time on the chain gang.

Daniels and his wife have been living in Massachusetts the past four years. He appeared Thursday in Roxbury District Court on a charge of being a fugitive from justice.

Fri. 5-27-49

Louis A. Kaufman of Pittsburgh has been appointed as a State Deputy Assistant Attorney General to appeal a Federal decision which denied extradition of Leon Johnson to Georgia.

The U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals at Philadelphia, refused to grant a rehearing. Attorney General Eugene Cook plans an appeal to the U. S. Supreme Court.

IN LYNCH CASE?

The Baltimore paper has further charged that one of the guards accused of mistreating prisoners at a Georgia work camp was recently indicted, tried and freed in connection with the lynch-slaying of Robert E. Mallard at Lyons, Georgia. The county in the story was listed as Wayne.

13B

The Georgia Corrections Board recently heard the complaint of a father that his son was imprisoned under conditions similar to Devil's Island in Gilmer County. He accused the guards of practicing many atrocities against prisoners confined there.

Fri. 5-27-49

Mother Pleads Against Georgia 'Chain Gang'

Atlanta Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.
13b
Sat. 6-4-49

TRENTON, N. J. — (SNS) — A mother's plea brought promise from New Jersey Gov. Alfred E. Driscoll Thursday to investigate charges that her 18-year-old son served on a "chain gang" in Georgia.

Sat. 6-4-49

Briscoll has been asked by Georgia authorities to extradite the youth, Francis Lee Malvin, who escaped from the Hillsboro Prison Camp.

Georgia authorities denied that a "chain gang" exists, although they admitted Malvin was kept in leg irons because of an earlier escape.

The boy's mother, Mrs. Winifred McAnny, told the governor her son said he had been chained, placed in a sweat box and forced to work in Alligator-Infested swamps.

She said he "should be punished" but not in a "chain gang.

Malvin was arrested for automobile theft while serving in the Army Air Force at Tampa. He escaped and was recaptured but last week managed a second escape with two companions and returned home.

STATE PRISON CAMPS UNDER ATTACK IN N. J.

Atlanta, Ga.
Daily World
Sat. 7-9-49

NEWARK, N. J. — (NNPA) — Georgia prisons were under attack in New Jersey from a new source as James J. Marshall, who escaped from a Richmond County camp, told Federal Judge Phillip Forman that he had been subjected to barbaric and unusual punishment at the camp.

Judge Forman in turing down Marshall's plea for a haven in New Jersey nevertheless ruled that he be permitted to remain in jail pending appeal to the U. S. Third Circuit Court of Appeals.

In denying Marshall's plea, Judge Forman said that to uphold such a complaint "would be to set at large every criminal who, having been mistreated by an employee in another state penal institution, escapes to one of the States of this Circuit."

He added that "The evidence shows that the very men whom the petitioner accuses of having mistreated him have been punished."

Marshall escaped the Richmond prison camp last August and sought refuge in New Jersey. He was under a 30-60 year sentence for robbery.

13b-Ga (N.J.)

Judge Forman was shown scars which Marshall claimed were inflicted with a hickory stick wielded by Richmond County prison guards.

Georgia's penal authorities recently journeyed to New Jersey to have Clarence Jackson extradited to Georgia. Jackson, who was sentenced to 20 years in jail in 1944 on a burglary conviction and escaped in May, 1948, charged before State Supreme Court Justice Ernest L. Hammer that he had been subjected to "cruel and inhuman treatment."

WHY FUGITIVES COME NORTH

Afro-American Sat. 7-30-49

A Federal judge in New Jersey has declined to send a 21-year-old fugitive back to an Alabama chain gang.

Julius V. Harper escaped in July, 1945, while serving a ten-year sentence for the theft of five dollars.

He was 15 years old at the time his case was tried. Harper claims he never had a chance for an education in Alabama, and when arrested, he was illiterate, was beaten and forced to sign a confession.

Baltimore Md.
13b-Ga (N.J.)

In Tacoma, Washington, 23-year-old Charles D. Seiber who escaped from a Florida chain gang is fighting extradition on the ground that this Southern State inflicted inhuman treatment upon him during his imprisonment.

In some respects the Northern States are as much an asylum to fugitives from the Southern prison farms and chain gangs as they were from slavery before the Civil War.

If a young man who is unjustly imprisoned in the South can escape to the North he is reasonably safe provided he goes straight in his new environment.

'GOOD PRISONS IN GEORGIA'

Northern Extradition Poses Injustice--Cook

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution

Northern courts who refuse to return Negro prisoners to Georgia are doing the Negro race an injustice, Atty. Gen. Eugene Cook will tell the Federal Courts soon.

"We have cases where Negroes kill Negroes and then flee the State to escape serving time," Cook said yesterday as he prepared briefs for three extradition cases. "Georgia is trying to give the Negro race justice by insisting that the killers are punished. Those Northern courts which provide a haven for the killers of Negroes are doing the Negro race an injustice."

13b-Ga (N.J.)

Cook said that insofar as he was concerned, any State that wants to become a refuge for Negro killers can have those killers. However, he is fighting the extraditions in order to refute the bad publicity given Georgia by untrue charges hurled at Georgia's prison system.

"We have one of the most modern prison systems in the nation today," the Attorney General claimed. "We should not be held accountable for bad conditions which existed in Georgia prisons prior to the penal reform system of 1943. Prisoners are safe in Georgia institutions today."

Wed. 10-26-49

Cook and members of the Law Department, Asst. State Director of Corrections J. B. Hatchett and Fulton County Warden Carl Mills will go to Trenton, N. J. Saturday to seek custody of Jack Williams, alias Lee Gainey, Negro fugitive under a robbery sentence.

Williams escaped from Fulton County. He is asking the Federal court to prevent his return, on the grounds that he was beaten in Fulton camps. The State of New Jersey is a co-defendant with Georgia in this suit.

They Came For Jackson

13B Ga. (N.Y.)

N.Y. Age. New York.

By AL LOWERY

It seemed they had everyone up here last week but "Hummon" Talmadge, the Governor of Georgia.

There was Paul Webb, Solicitor General for Fulton County; Carl Mills, warden of Fulton County Work Camps, Jefferson B. Hatchett, acting director of Georgia's Department of Correction, and Leidy W. Shehee, secretary of the Fulton County Grand Jury.

Sat. 6-25-49

They were all before Supreme Court Justice Ernest L. Hammer last week in an attempt to return 35-year-old Clarence Jackson to the southern state. His story is elsewhere on these pages; we were interested in talking to some of these Georgia officials about the conditions in the Cracker State.

6-25-49

"We've made great progress since we abolished the chain gang in our state and we're proud of it," said Solicitor Webb. He's equal to a New York District Attorney—both in position and in ability as a lawyer.

Jefferson B. Hatchett, the acting director of Georgia's Department of Correction, claimed that cases like Jackson really kept his state from moving in the manner in which it desired.

We're making more progress in prison reform in Georgia," he told us, than in any other state in the country. But," he added, things like this keep us from doing what we want to do."

13B

"What," we asked, "do you mean, things like this?"

"A man like Jackson," he replied. "A professional burglar. He has a record dating back from the time when he was 15 years old. He was arrested in New York when we found his trail."

(Jackson had just been released from serving a one-year term on Rikers Island for petty larceny when the Georgia authorities arrived with a warrant for his arrest.)

6-25-49

We asked Hatchett just what was the score as far as Georgia's prisons are now concerned. He seemed anxious to describe them.

"Take that Oglethorpe Public Works Camp in Lexington," he said. "Why, in that camp all the trusties are Negroes."

Mr. Hatchett seemed especially proud to make that statement.

Carl Mills, assistant warden when Jackson fled the prison in 1946, swore he had never seen an inmate whipped in Ben Hill Camp. He also disclaimed any knowledge of any prisoner being beaten to death in the camp. (Jackson has charged he witnessed a prisoner being beaten to death and swears he had to help bury the body). The warden also identified photos of the present camp, entirely different, he admitted, from the one from which Jackson escaped. The old one burned down, he said.

Congratulations to Paul Webb

The Constitution

13B Ga.

Congratulations and thanks are due Fulton County Solicitor General Paul Webb.

A New York Supreme Court Justice has ordered Clarence Jackson, 35-year-old Negro, returned to Ben Hill Prison Camp from which he escaped last year.

Jackson fought extradition with every legal resource. He already had won lower court victories when Solicitor Webb decided Georgia had suffered long enough by default in such cases. He went to New York for the dual purpose of obtaining Jackson and defending the State's penal system from unfair attacks.

Jackson contended he feared for his life if he was returned to Georgia. He claimed he was blinded in one eye and his arm broken at the Ben Hill camp.

Solicitor Webb introduced evidence which so effectively refuted Jackson's claims that the court held "Jackson has failed to prove the acts of brutality or of cruel or unusual punishment . . .

"On the contrary," the Justice ruled, "the evidence on behalf of the State of Georgia shows that Jackson has been accorded due process of law and if returned will not be subjected to cruel and inhuman treatment or brutal and unusual punishment."

Georgia, the Justice held, has reformed its prison system and now seems "to be abreast of the most modern penological practices of the various prison systems of the United States. . . ."

We commend Solicitor Webb for a job well done. Almost invariably in the past Georgia has allowed extradition proceedings in Northern and Eastern States to become sounding boards for reckless charges against the South. It was the first time, to our knowledge, that a Georgia Solicitor has journeyed North to press for extradition of a wanted criminal. It doubtless will not be the last, however.

Mr. Webb presented his case calmly and deliberately. He obtained witnesses who refuted, without rancor, the allegations of the defendant. He made no appeal whatever to headlines; he made no irresponsible charges. His conduct of the case reflected credit upon the County and the State.

Atlanta, Ga.

Let us be honest and say not all Georgia counties could say—and prove—what Solicitor Webb proved for Fulton. There are counties in Georgia to which it would not be safe to send the prisoner. It was facts—not sentiment—which won for Fulton County. The prison system in Fulton is good. It is good because we obey the State laws. We have had no lynchings. We have had no violence.

Georgia could have a good name as a State. Her people deserve it. They do not deserve the bad name the bad and evil persons, in a few counties, have given it.

Tue. 6-21-49

Let Georgia vigorously prosecute all who violate her own laws—the lynchers, the mobsters, the ku klux—so that we may defend our State. Fulton County deserves a hand, too.

Paul Webb's New York Case

Fulton County's Solicitor, Paul Webb, has completed a defense in an extradition case in New York. A Negro prisoner pleaded that his life would be endangered and that he would be subjected to cruel and unusual punishment if returned to Ben Hill camp from which he escaped.

Paul Webb has started something which, while expensive, we believe worth while. In the past such hearings have gone by default, the State not being represented. In this case the Negro's testimony was not true and easily refuted. Whether the court will so hold none can say. But there was an overwhelming supply of unimpeached evidence to deny the defendant's charges.

Paul Webb has done the State and County a service.

The Constitution

But, let's be frank. There are counties in Georgia which cannot in honesty make a defense. We could not, in honesty, defend them editorially. We could not say, for example, that in the counties where lynchings have recently occurred that a returned prisoner's life would be safe and that he would not be subjected to cruel and unusual punishment.

13B

It is these counties which give us a bad name the State as a whole does not deserve. It is these counties, which defend their own evil, which stultify the character of the whole State. The sooner the people of Georgia realize that the Communists, the Ku Klux Klan, the lynch-minded counties must all know, and feel, the weight of an outraged public opinion, the sooner Georgia will win a reputation for justice and honor.

Atlanta, Ga.

Sun. 6-19-49

Sun. 6-19-49

Steps Taken To Detain Negro Escapee In East

The Advertiser

Montgomery

13B Ala.

NEW YORK, June 21 —(AP)— Clarence Jackson's lawyer today took steps to keep the escaped Negro convict from going back to a Georgia prison while his case is appealed.

The attorney, Curtis R. McClane, applied to the appellate division for a stay of execution of a ruling yesterday by a local court, ordering Jackson's return to Georgia.

Wed. 6-22-49

The 35-year-old Jackson escaped from the Ben Hill prison camp near Atlanta on May 8, 1948. He is fighting removal to Georgia on grounds he was mistreated at the prison.

Extradition Ruling Due Today in N. Y.

The Constitution

13B

Atlanta, Ga.

Mon. 6-20-49

NEW YORK—(UP)—State Supreme Court Justice Ernest E. L. Hammer is expected to rule today on whether Clarence Jackson, 35-year-old Negro, should be returned to the Georgia prison camp he fled on May 8, 1948.

Jackson, who admits committing 44 crimes, is fighting his extradition on the grounds that he was brutally treated and kept in chains in solitary confinement.

Georgia sent five State officials, headed by Fulton County Sol. Paul Webb, here to refute Jackson's charges, to plead for his extradition, and to guarantee that no harm would come to him in the prison camp.

13B Mon.

Jackson escaped from the Ben Hill Prison Camp 13 months ago with 16 years of a 20-year sentence to serve. He was released from a New York jail last week, after serving a year for larceny, and was rearrested at once on a Georgia fugitive warrant.

Judge Hammer reserved decision in the case on Friday because "there is a great deal involved here — the constitutional rights of an individual, the rights of two sovereign States."

He said he had never heard of a State sending representatives of "such standing and dignity as these sent by Georgia." 6-20-49

Attorneys for both sides have indicated they will appeal if they lose the decision.

Jackson was taken to Tombs Prison on Friday to await Judge Hammer's decision.

Ga. Negro's Fate With N. Y. Judge

Atlanta Constitution

Atlanta, Ga.

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The fate of Clarence Jackson, 35-year-old Negro fighting return to a Georgia prison camp, was placed in the hands of Supreme Court Justice Ernest E. L. Hammer yesterday in New York.

The court reserved a decision on Jackson's plea for a writ of habeas corpus, a legal maneuver to block his return to the Ben Hill camp near Atlanta.

Jackson, who fled the camp last year, said a Ben Hill guard broke his arm and blinded him in one eye. He added "It was a common practice to make prisoners run and then shoot them."

Sol. Gen. Paul Webb, of Fulton County, told the Court in reply:

"We make no defense of the past but we want everyone to know that Georgia is alive and awake to current trends of social conscience. Georgia is proud of its accomplishments."

Sat 6-18-49

In asking dismissal of the writ, Webb added:

"It may seem a bit strange that we came up here from Georgia on a case of this kind. It is only because of the possibility that some people sincerely believe prisoners are mistreated in Georgia prison camps."

Terming Jackson's charges false Webb offered the Court what he called the "true facts of prison reform in Georgia."

Jackson, at the time of his escape, was serving a 20-year sentence as a four-time burglar. His record dates back to 1930 and he was sentenced last in 1944.

His attorney, Curtis F. McClane, told the Court:

"I firmly believe this man's life is in danger if he is returned to Georgia, despite assurances to the contrary. There is a possibility he might not live to serve out his sentence. He was subjected to punishments that smack of the medieval."

Warden Carl Mills, of Fulton County, testified the most serious punishment at the camp was solitary confinement in a small room with a cot and running water.

"Did you ever hear of prisoners being forced to run while guards shot at them?" Webb asked.

"Definitely not," the Warden replied.

"Was he (Jackson) ever thrown out in the snow, as he charges?"

"No, sir," said Mills.

"Can you positively swear that no harm will come to him if he is returned?"

"Yes, sir, I can," the Warden said.

Mills testified he did not know of any guard named Copley. It was by that name that Jackson identified the guard who, he said, broke his arm.

State inspectors look over all Georgia prison camps on an average of twice a month, the warden testified.

"Do you know of any violence to a prisoner?" he was asked.

"Not that I know of," Mills answered. "I inspect the camps closely. Any prisoner may write me uncensored or talk to the chaplain if he has a complaint."

Mills added that Jackson never carried any complaint to him.

"What kind of weapons do the guards carry?" McClane asked Mills.

Sat. 6-18-49

"Shotguns," the warden said.

"Do you recall a guard firing his gun at a prisoner?"

"Yes," Mills replied. "Two prisoners tried to escape from a quarry and a guard shot them."

The warden added that the would-be escapees suffered "flesh wounds." He said there were 14 escapes among 936 prisoners since the first of the year.

Webb said Jackson's charge that a guard blinded him was false. He said medical reports show Jackson lost the sight of the eye some time ago from natural causes.

"I ask all men not to look at the evils of the past," Webb pleaded, "but the goal we are seeking to reach, the reforms we have instituted and the milestones of progress we have made."

He urged the Negro defense lawyer to come to Atlanta, adding "we need his sterling type and character."

However. McClane replied:

"The testimony here reminds me of a bright red apple, but I say there are worms in the core of that apple. I have been invited to Georgia but I am afraid. I tell your honor I am a coward. I am afraid of what would happen to me."

Justice Hammer indicated his decision might be ready Monday.

He called the case "a matter of great importance."

What Is a Man's Life Worth?

Dear Sirs: On June 20 Justice Ernest Hammer of the New York Supreme Court denied a writ of habeas corpus to Clarence Jackson, a Negro fugitive from a Georgia chain gang. The suit in Jackson's behalf was instituted by the Workers' Defense League and the legal argument was presented by Curtis F. McClane, volunteer attorney for the W. D. L. The Nation

Admittedly, Jackson has a bad record. His first experience in the Georgia prison system came at the age of fifteen, and since that time he has had little opportunity to discover the ways of a free man—if any Negro can be considered free in the sovereign state of Georgia. New York. N.Y.

In the course of the testimony before Judge Hammer it was brought out that Jackson was last arrested in Georgia on what seemed very weak grounds—so weak, indeed, considering what is required as evidence in most American courts, that the case should have been thrown out immediately by the court. The fact that Jackson in his New York hearing showed extraordinary courage in nailing the lie to his former white captors should have made those responsible for justice in the North hesitate to send him back to the chain gang. More than this, Jackson exhibited shackle and chain marks on his legs and swore before Judge Hammer that his right arm had been broken and his left eye blinded by prison guards in Georgia; he further testified that his life had been threatened because he knew the names of those responsible for the death of another Negro inmate, whom he (Jackson) was forced to help bury. He was repeatedly warned, he says, to keep his mouth shut if he knew what was good for him. Sat. 7-2-49

The state of Georgia took the unprecedented step of sending to the trial its Solicitor General, Paul Webb, and several assistants, as well as the head of the Georgia Grand Jury Association and the warden of one Georgia prison. All swore that the state's penal system had recently undergone revolutionary reform. Mr. Webb described the new paradise—clean sheets, roast beef, barbecues, etc. [In a New York *Post* interview by Ted Poston on June 22 Jackson was quoted as saying, "Hell, I was the cook, and even the guards didn't get no roast beef. We prisoners might have got some beef stew now and then, but mostly it was fat-back, hog head, and pig's foot and red beans. And many times the meat was rotten, with maggots crawling in it." Elsewhere in the interview, he said, "I had to come up here and go to jail to learn how a human being lived. I was treated better as an inmate of Rikers Island than I was as a free man in Georgia. And I ain't even been a free man much there. I spent eighteen of my thirty-five years on chain gangs and in prisons, and I hadn't done nothing at all for three of the six times they sentenced me."—EDITORS THE NATION.]

I hardly think that any of your readers would agree that Clarence Jackson ought to be sent back to Georgia at the risk of his life merely to prove Mr. Webb's assertion about Georgia's "change of heart." Recently a federal court in Pennsylvania denied extradition in the case of a Georgia Negro wanted for murder. The decision in that case was primarily a condemnation of Georgia justice and the Georgia prison system. These humanitarian considerations were apparently not binding upon the Supreme Court of the State of New York, but they should be binding upon our higher courts. Sat. 7-2-49

The W. D. L. is appealing this case; to do so, funds are desperately needed. A real and vital change in the Georgia prison system may yet be effected; at this moment, however, the life of a man is at stake. What is the life of a man worth to you, readers of *The Nation?* Funds may be rushed to the Workers' Defense League, Dr. George S. Counts, Treasurer, Room 905, 112 East Nineteenth Street, New York 3.

ALBERT K. HERLING, President,
Unitarian Fellowship for Social Justice
Boston, June 21

13b 1949

Georgia(Ohio)

Talmadge Slaps

Atlanta, Ga.

At Cincinnati

Daily World

Judge's Ruling

~~CINCINNATI, O. — (INS)~~ — A Cincinnati judge who gave freedom to a Georgia Chain Gang escapee was warned today by the prisoner's home state Governor that a "dumping ground for convicts" was being created in Ohio.

Judge Charles S. Bell, at whom Georgia's Governor Herman Talmadge leveled his attack, said he had no comment. He said: "My ruling speaks for itself." Governor Talmadge declared:

World 8-17-49

"If Cincinnati and Ohio want to become a dumping ground for convicts, that's their business, not mine.'

The jurist rejected extradition papers signed by Ohio's Gov. Frank J. Lausche, and granted a writ of habeas corpus to Charles Ross, Jr., 28, a three-time loser who escaped the chain gang June 9, 1947.

13b Ga (Ohio)

Ross said he was serving a year's sentence for shooting at another person when he escaped. He served six years on two other counts — burglary and robbery — previously. The judge acquitted Ross of a shooting charge and a grand larceny count August 4. The judge said:

"I have sent others back to Georgia on extradition proceedings. Afterwards, I ascertained the treatment they got at least caused me to mingle with the idea that they were treated by those with personal vengeance."

He testified that he had been manhandled and hit with a pick-axe handle while serving on the gang.

Judge Bell said he had heard that similar treatment accorded other convicts who returned to finish their sentences. He granted Ross a Writ of Habeas Corpus, releasing him.

Judge Won't

Atlanta, Ga.

Send Fugitive

Daily World

Back To Georgia

CINCINNATI, Ohio—(INS)— The extradition of a man wanted by Georgia officials for escaping from a chain gang was prevented today in a precedent-breaking decision by Judge Charles S. Bell.

Judge Bell sitting in the Hamilton County Common Pleas Court overruled Ohio Gov. Frank L. Lausche authorization to extradite the former convict.

13b Ga (Ohio)

Aug. 8-16-49

The prisoner, Willie Ross, Jr., of Cincinnati, is wanted by Ga. authorities for escaping from a chain-gang at Bellwood, Georgia, in June, 1947.

Cook Assails U. S. Ruling On Fugitive

Constitution

Journal 9-25-49

Georgia's courts, as well as Georgia's prison system, were insulted by the decision of the Third Circuit Court of Appeals in the Leon Johnson case, Atty. Gen. Eugene Cook declared yesterday.

The State Law Department filed a brief in the United States Supreme Court, intervening in the extradition case of the Cobb County Negro fugitive and the State of Pennsylvania.

Atlanta, Ga.

"The State of Georgia, though not a party in this action, has been subjected to unseemly comment of a derogatory nature not in keeping with the respect due a sovereign State under the Federal system," Georgia's Law Department said in the brief. "It files this brief to support such action as will provide it opportunity to negative charges made by the escapee and sanctioned by the Court of Appeals."

The brief said that: "The opinion of the Court of Appeals, in effect, holds that the remedy available at the hands of the judicial system of Georgia is worthless. Thus the Court of Appeals not only holds that the penal system of Georgia permits the perpetration of crimes upon its prisoners; it holds, in effect, that the judiciary of Georgia provides no relief for such crimes. The State of Georgia submits that this decision is derogatory to the State in its sovereign capacity and should not be allowed to stand."

Johnson, serving a life term for murdering a Negro woman, fled to Pennsylvania. He charged he was treated brutally in prison and that his life is in danger if he returns to Georgia. The State of Pennsylvania granted extradition, but was stopped on an appeal, and it has carried the case to the Supreme Court.

13b Ga.(Pa)

Ga. Attempts To Extradite Johnson Again

13b Ga.(Pa.)

Courier

Sat. 8-27-49

The celebrated case of Leon Johnson, Georgia chain-gang fugitive, may have come to an end with the refusal of the U. S. Circuit Court to allow the state of Georgia to have a rehearing. Georgia, through its Pittsburgh representative, Louis L. Kaufman, recently filed a petition for leave to reopen the case in an attempt to secure the return of the Clairton millworker to its jurisdiction.

Jubilant over the latest move by the courts, defense counsel, Samuel J. Goldstein and Hymen J. Schlesinger, informed a representative of The Pittsburgh Courier: "This is indeed a victory over the prejudices and double-standard of judging civil rights in the South. We are happy over this decision and feel that it represents another step forward on the path to a real and true democracy."

Pittsburgh, Pa.

Today (Thursday) is the last day for further action by the state of Georgia. If it does not file a writ of certiorari by the time the courts close today, Johnson will automatically become a free man. Louis L. Kaufman entered the case as the legal representative of the Southern state after he lost his position as Assistant District Attorney of Allegheny County. Before that time he had handled the numerous habeas corpus proceedings (brought by Johnson's attorneys) for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

High Court Denies Writ To Ga. Negro

WASHINGTON — (AP) —The Supreme Court yesterday upheld Pennsylvania's efforts to turn over to Georgia a Negro fugitive murderer.

13b Ga(Pa)

The Negro, Leon Johnson, was sentenced to life imprisonment in Cobb County, Georgia, for the killing of a Negro woman. He escaped and was captured in Western Pennsylvania.

SAN FRANCISCO—(UP)—Sylvester Middlebrooks, Jr., fugitive from a Georgia road camp, yesterday was denied a writ of habeas corpus by the State Supreme Court. He escaped from a public works camp at Monroe, Ga., in July, 1939. Gov. Warren has signed extradition papers.

Johnson tried to block his extradition, granted by Pennsylvania, by filing habeas corpus proceedings in Pennsylvania State courts. He charged he had received cruel treatment in Georgia. Pennsylvania courts turned him down, describing Johnson as "an untrustworthy witness."

Atlanta, Ga.

The Negro then asked the U. S. District Court in Pittsburgh for a habeas corpus writ, but again was turned down. He appealed to the U. S. Circuit Court in Philadelphia. The Circuit Court ruled the District Court had improperly dismissed Johnson's request.

Constitution

Pennsylvania then appealed to the Supreme Court. The State protested it had always had the sovereign right to handle its prisoner affairs "without supervision" by Federal agencies.

Georgia joined Pennsylvania in attacking the Circuit Court's ruling. It filed a brief with the Supreme Court which called the ruling "derogatory to the State in its sovereign capacity."

9-18-49

The Supreme Court in a four-line order yesterday reversed the ruling of the Circuit Court. The effect is to reinstate the decision of the U. S. District Court in Pittsburgh that Johnson was not entitled to a habeas corpus writ from a Federal court.

Justice Douglas took no part in yesterday's action.

Georgia Makes Novel Plea in B Extradition Cases

Afro-American Sat. 11-12-49

Asserts Courts Which Shield Fugitives Unjust to Race; Prison System Defended

ATLANTA (NNPA)—Northern courts which refuse to return colored prisoners to Georgia are doing colored people an injustice, Eugene Cook, State Attorney General, will tell Federal courts in briefs he is preparing in three extradition cases.

Baltimore, Md.

"We have cases where colored people kill each other and then flee the State to escape serving time," Cook said last week.

13b

"Georgia is trying to give the colored race justice by insisting that the killers are punished. Those Northern courts which provide a haven for the killers of colored peoplle are doing the race an injustice."

Ga.(Pa.)

Bad Publicity Hurts State

Cook said that insofar as he was concerned, any State that wants to become a refuge for colored killers can have them.

However, he is really fighting the extraditions to refute the bad publicity given Georgia by charges against its prison system.

"We have one of the most modern prison systems in the natio today," the attorney general declared.

"We should not be held accountable for bad conditions which existed in Georgia prisons prior to the penal reform system of 1943. Prisoners are safe in Georgia institutions today."

Want Fugitive In Jersey

Cook and members of the Law Department, assistant State Director of Corrections, J. B. Hatchett, and Fulton County Warden Carl Mills are scheduled to go to Trenton, N. J., to seek custody of Jack Williams, alias Lee Gainey, a fugitive under a robbery sentence.

Williams who escaped from Fulton County Jail, is asking the Federal court to prevent his return, on the grounds that he was beaten in Fulton camps.

Extradition Of State Fugitive Denied In Penna.

Memphis World
13b
Memphis, Tenn.

ATLANTA, Georgia — (SNS) — A federal court decision freeing a convicted murderer who escaped a Georgia chaingang six years ago brought everything from heated replies to a tolerant "turn the other cheek" attitude from state officials in Atlanta Wednesday."

The third U. S. circuit court of appeals at Philadelphia freed Leon Johnson 24-year-old Negro on the basis of "cruel and brutal" treatment accorded him in a Georgia prison.

Fri. 5-20-49

Chief Judge John Biggs, Jr., wrote in a footnote to the ruling:

"We shall not set out in this opinion the revolting barbarities which Johnson and his witnesses state were habitually perpetrated as standard chain gang practice."

Attorney General Eugene Cook, commenting on the international News Service story of the case, declared:

Fri. 5-20-49

"It sounds like the decision was based on a misrepresentation of Georgia's prison machinery or is a miscarriage of justice."

Georgia was represented at the hearing for the Pittsburg District Attorney's office. Cook and John C. Houston, who handles extradiction cases for the Governor's office, disclaimed any notification that a hearing was to be held.

Assistant Attorney General Claude Shaw said it was "customary" for local governmental attorneys to represent the distant state in such cases, but he added:

"In a case of such peculiar circumstances as this, Georgia certainly would have wanted to be represented to give the true facts of the state's penal conditions."

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13b

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Daily World
13b
Atlanta, Ga.

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Extradition Case for Top Court

Ga (Pa)
13b
Constitution

George lost another attempt to return a Cobb County Negro prisoner from Pennsylvania yesterday, and Atty. Gen. Eugene Cook immediately announced he would carry the case to the United States Supreme Court.

Tues. 8-9-49

In Philadelphia, the Third United States Circuit Court of Appeals refused to consider a May 17 ruling that denied extradition of Leon Johnson, alias Robert McMillian, 34-year-old Negro who has been held in Allegheny County, Pa., jail since 1943.

McMillian escaped from the Cobb County work camp shortly after he was sentenced to a life term for slaying Sarah Thompson. In a five-to-one decision the court had ruled that no State can extradite a prisoner who had been treated brutally while in jail and who might be mistreated again.

Atlanta, Ga.

Georgia Denied Extradition Of Negro By Federal Court

13b
(Pa)
The Montgomery Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

PHILADELPHIA, May 18.—(AP)—The State of Georgia was denied extradition of a convicted Negro slayer today by the Third U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals on the ground he had been treated inhumanly.

(Pa)

Leon Johnson, 34, convicted of slaying Sarah Thompson, 22, in Cobb County in 1943, was given his freedom after being held in Allegheny County (Pa.) jail for six years.

Johnson broke away from a Cobb County prison camp in June, 1943, six months after his conviction. He was rearrested in Pittsburgh and held there pending the outcome of extradition proceedings.

Entitled to "Decency"

Chief Judge John Biggs, Jr., in the majority opinion, wrote that convicts are entitled to decency and humanity and if mistreated, are entitled to continue their freedom after their escape.

He attached a footnote saying:

"We shall not set out in this opinion the revolting barbarities which Johnson and his witnesses state were habitually perpetrated as standard chain gang practice. It is enough to state that leg irons and most frequent beatings were among the 'minor' constant cruelties."

Thur. 5-19-49

Georgia Officials Willing

Georgia officials indicated Pennsylvania could keep the Negro.

R. A. Warren, director of the State Corrections Department in Atlanta, said it was the state's duty to attempt extradition of convicted murderers and added:

"If Pennsylvania wants to keep them, that's all right with me."

The circuit court used the term "chain gang" although Georgia abolished chain gangs on Jan. 1, 1943.

Thur. 5-19-49

The court ruling applies to Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware and the Virgin Islands but will have nation-wide effect if approved by the U. S. Supreme Court.

ABOLISHED TEN YEARS AGO

'Georgia Chain Gangs' Still Draw North's Fire

Atlanta Constitution
Atlanta, Ga.
13b
(Pa)

Ten years after Georgia abolished its chain gangs, critics up North are still condemning them as if they still were in existence.

The latest blast came last week from a Federal Court of Appeals Judge in Philadelphia, who refused to extradite to Georgia a convicted slayer who escaped from Cobb County in 1943.

Sun. 5-22-49

The judge bitterly condemned Georgia's chain gang in writing a majority decision that freed Leon Johnson, 34-year-old Negro.

Atty. Gen. Eugene Cook has announced he may carry the case to the U. S. Supreme Court to defend Georgia's name and settle once and for all the stigma of the abolished chain gangs.

Georgia was not represented by a Georgia attorney at the Philadelphia hearing, but was represented only by a Pennsylvania state attorney, "because," as Georgia's Asst. Director of Corrections, J. B. Hatchett, said, "We didn't think Georgia was on trial."

Hatchett said that "Georgia's prisons are as human as any, and we want Georgians to know that. We are even more liberal than most States. We are not so much concerned, however, over how the folks up North think our prison system is down here, because if they think it is bad it will help keep some of their criminals out of Georgia."

5-22-49

He added, however, that "Georgia shouldn't have been on trial up there."

The history of the Georgia chain gang system and its abolition is an interesting story, Hatchett said, and one few Georgians know.

Establishment of the chain gangs came about really as a humane gesture to end an even more intolerable situation when Gov. Hoke Smith succeeded more than 30 years ago in abolishing the lease system. This was a system whereby convicts were leased to private firms and individuals, many of which firms and individuals grew wealthy on convict labor.

When the lease system was abolished, Georgia's only State prison was at Milledgeville, and it would accomodate only about 200 prisoners. When the leased convicts were turned back to the State there was no place to put them. Therefore, the Legislature authorized them to be distributed to County chain gangs.

5-22-49

This posed a problem for the Counties. They didn't have prisons to house the convicts either. So, in many counties, the old portable cages were built. The prisoners were housed in them, somewhat like animals, and could be transported from place to place to work on roads.

The prisoners were kept in chains, and the lash was used on them freely. And for a while there was the custom of placing incorrigibles in stocks, an ancient method of punishment.

But use of the lash and stocks was abolished soon after Hardwick's administration.

Years later, under the Rivers administration in 1938, the chains were taken off the convicts, although the use of manacles was still permitted to prevent escapes. And in 1943, under the Arnall administration, the striped uniforms were abolished except for incorrigibles. The already chainless chain gangs were abolished and a County public works prison system established. This in addition to the modern Tattnall State Pris built under Rivers' administration. istration.

Now, said Hatchett, all convicts farmed out to Counties are housed in permanent structures, most of them fireproof. Brutality has largely disappeared, he said, because the wardens and guards must be approved by the State Board of Corrections, and Counties must meet certain minimum requirements on the feeding, care and treatment of prisoners.

The Counties observe these regulations, too, Hatchett said, because in several instances where the rules have been violated the Counties have had their prisoners taken away from them, thus losing the fruits of the convicts' labor.

5-22-49

No penal system can be perfect, Hatchett admits, but his claim is that Georgia's is even better and more humane than those of neighboring states. "I used to cringe at the criticism of our chain gangs," he said, "because I knew a lot of it was true. But I am not ashamed of our system now."

"You've got to control prisoners, however," Hatchett said. "After all, they weren't convicted for praying in church. And you cannot afford to let prisoners run a prison. There are times when force must be used to control them."

Hatchett said that in this machine age modern-day prisoners have become skilled workers, running tractors and bulldozers, working on construction projects on highways, hospitals, college dormitories, courthouses, etc. In this way, he said, they learn skilled trades and make a contribution to society in payment of their debt to society.

5-22-49

In the process, he said, the prisoners have to be trusted more and they have to be treated better before they can be trusted more.

Yet, Dixiephobes in Pennsylvania still condemn in 1949 the brutality of Georgia chain gangs.

U. S. Appeals Court Bars Extradition Of 'Inhumanly' Treated Prisoners

(13 k)

Courier Journal

Louisville, Ky.

Georgia Case Sets Precedent

(Pa)

By the Associated Press.

Philadelphia, May 18.—A Federal Court broke with precedent today to rule that a State cannot extradite prisoners it has treated "cruelly and inhumanly."

The Third Circuit Court of Appeals threw out Georgia's demand that Leon Johnson, 34-year-old Negro who escaped from Cobb County Jail in 1943, be returned to that State to complete his life sentence.

Louisville Ky.

Prisoners are entitled "to decency and humanity," Judge John Biggs, Jr., wrote in a majority opinion.

Jnl. 5-19-49

Judge Biggs said Johnson and other witnesses testified that "revolting barbarities . . . are habitually perpetrated as standard chain-gang practice (in Georgia).

"To perpetuate these atrocities . . . is to be unfair to the American scene as a whole and to reflect little credit on this generation for posterity."

(The "chain-gang" language was used despite the fact that Georgia abolished this form of punishment January 1, 1943.)

In its 5-1 decision the court overruled decisions in favor of Georgia's claim handed down in Allegheny County (Pittsburgh) Court, Pennsylvania's Superior Court, and the U. S. District Court at Pittsburgh.

Its effect is to free Johnson from the Allegheny County Jail, where he has been imprisoned nearly six years.

He was convicted of the slaying of Sarah Thompson, 22, in January, 1943. He escaped from prison in a break of 175 inmates six months later and was arrested in Pittsburgh and held for extradition.

Test Seems Unlikely.

The Circuit Court ruling is applicable directly only in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, and the Virgin Islands. If upheld by the Supreme Court, it would become national practice.

There seems little likelihood, however, of a Supreme Court test.

R. A. Warren, director of Georgia's Corrections Department, said it was the duty of his office to attempt to extradite escaped murderers, but "If Pennsylvania wants to keep them and make citizens of them, it can do just that as far as I'm concerned."

In an opinion dissenting from the majority Circuit Court ruling, Judge John J. O'Connell argued that the court should not make a sweeping decision and should rule only on individual cases after deciding whether the convict actually was mistreated.

In a footnote, however, Judge O'Connell said:

"Georgia chooses to disregard the mandates of the Eighth Amendment and its own Constitution. . . .

(13 k)

Doesn't Detail Atrocities.

"Better it be that a potentially dangerous individual be set free than that the least degree of impairment of an individual's basic constitutional rights be permitted."

Judge Biggs did not go into detail about the alleged atrocities, but said, "It is enough to state that leg irons and most frequent beatings were among the 'minor' constant cruelties."

Johnson told Pennsylvania authorities that witnesses in Georgia testified falsely against him in that state because of police intimidation and force.

Judge Biggs in his opinion censured Georgia for "failing signally in its duties as one of the sovereign states to treat a convict with decency and humanity."

Connecticut Refuses To Extradite Negro

(12 B)

Chas News

Charleston

HARTFORD, Conn., July 16—(AP)—Gov. Chester Bowles has turned down a request by the governor of South Carolina for extradition of Bleas[illegible] Harrison, Negro wanted in the state to serve a year's sentence for false arrest.

Harrison, [illegible] winter resident of Hartford, fled South Carolina after he had been convicted of falsely arresting a white boy who had allegedly been stealing from Harrison's peanut patch.

Sat 7-16-49

Gov. Bowles, after a hearing Friday, said the extradition papers were not in proper order and that "based on the evidence presented, I cannot, in all conscience, sign extradition papers which would return Harrison to South Carolina."

The governor's office said the hearing disclosed that Harrison caught several white boys stealing his peanuts. He took a rifle from one of the boys and drove the youngster to the sheriff's office where he accused him of trespass. Instead, the boy was released and Harrison was arrested, charged with having made an illegal arrest. He was convicted and sentenced, but fled the state while out on bail.

Pennsylvania Asks Review of Historic Georgia Case

Afro-American

Baltimore, Md.

Supreme Court Told U.S. Appellate Court Freed Fugitive on Insufficient Evidence

WASHINGTON (NNPA)—The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has asked the U.S. Supreme Court to review the decision of the Third U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals setting free a fugitive from a Georgia chain gang.

The State contends in its petition that the Circuit Court of Appeals had before it insufficient evidence to support a finding that Leon Johnson suffered "cruel and unusual punishment" in violation of the Eighth Amendment to the Federal Constitution.

Johnson was convicted Jan. 25, 1943, in Cobb County, Ga., for the murder of his girl friend, Sarah Frances Thompson. His punishment was fixed at life imprisonment.

13 K

Fight for Freedom

Six months later, he escaped and made his way to Allegheny County (Pittsburgh), where he was arrested. The Governor of Pennsylvania, at the request of the Governor of Georgia, issued the executive warrant for his arrest.

Johnson was freed on a writ of habeas corpus in Allegheny County, alleging that: His conviction was improper; State witnesses testified falsely because of intimidation; he was beaten brutally by prison guards and return to Georgia would endanger his life.

2 Courts Uphold Ga.

The Cobb County police chief testified that colored prisoners were not ill-treated, that no prisoner had died of violence or neglect, and that the Georgia chain gang had been abolished three years before Johnson was sentenced.

The Common Pleas Court of Allegheny County dismissed the writ and was sustained by the Superior Court of Pennsylvania. Johnson then filed a new petition for a writ of habeas corpus in Federal District Court of Pittsburgh, by-passing the State Supreme Court.

The Federal District Court dismissed his petition and Johnson appealed to the Third U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals which, in an historic decision, reversed the Federal District Court. The Appellate Court ordered Johnson discharged but stayed the mandate.

COURT REFUSES EXTRADITION OF GEORGIA NEGRO FUGITIVE

Atlanta Ga. Daily World

PHILADELPHIA — (INS) — A federal court of appeals Monday upheld its precedent-setting ruling which freed a Georgia chain gang fugitive because he was "brutally" treated while in custody.

The third U. S. circuit court of appeals denied a petition by the states of Pennsylvania and Georgia for a rehearing on the case of Leon Johnson, alias Robert McMillan, 34-year old Negro.

13 K

In Atlanta, Georgia's Attorney General Eugene Cook said he would immediately take the case to the Federal Supreme Court on a writ of certiorari.

Cook said he was disappointed in the circuit court of appeals decision. He said he had attached evidence to his motion to remand the case to a lower court that showed the new and modern prison camps now in Georgia.

Jour. 8-9-49

The Peach state threw off the chains and stripes five years ago. Cook, said he didn't know exactly how he would keep the Negro in jail. He said he would talk to Pennsylvania authorities tomorrow on the matter.

The Federal Court, in a 5—1 decision, on May 17 ruled that a state "cannot extradite a prisoner who has been "brutalized" and "mistreated."

Johnson had been serving a life sentence in Georgia for murder when he escaped to Pennsylvania.

Pennsylvania Attorney General T. McKean Chidsey appealed to the court to reconsider its verdict "fear escaped prisoners from all over the country would make this commonwealth a haven of refuge, and thus endanger the safety of its residents."

8-9-49

Johnson has been held in the Allegheny county prison in Pittsburgh since 1943 on robbery convictions.

13b 1949 Louisiana (California)

Louisiana sheriff has wrong papers for Green

Tribune Los Angeles, Calif.

Sheriff T. H. Martin, of St. Francisville, La., whose state attempted to lynch a Negro last week, was sent back to Louisiana Thursday to get the "right papers" if he wants to extradite Woodrow Green, who took refuge in California after firing a shot at a white man "back home."

Sat. 3-12-49

Sending the Louisiana officer back was Governor Earl Warren, who has an even score as regards handing Negroes into the eager arms of the ever-loving southern law. Last month Warren brought down the wrath of the state's Negroes on his head when he signed papers which sent Joseph Brocks back to Alabama to be imprisoned for a penny ante crime. But last year, Warren saved an Oakland grocer who had committed murder from the Georgia chain gang.

Tribune

Los Angeles, Calif.

Green is wanted in Louisiana for merely shooting at the white man, who was unhurt, and who allegedly attacked him with a baseball bat. He has not been tried.

Sat. 3-12-49

Since he hasn't been tried and found guilty, California owes Louisiana nothing, the Civil Rights Congress, left wing pressure group which is standing up for Green, argued with the governor this week.

Sat. 3-12-49

In Louisiana, the congress pointed out, a man cannot be extradited unless the demanding state offers proof a crime was committed. Warren and the California courts, however, have stretched the point and taken the position, as in the Brocks case, that California has not the authority to pass on the justice of the charges against a man wanted by a state, not even when it is universally known, as in the cases of Negroes and the South, that the justice is suspect.

Tribune

The congress said it has reminded Gov. Warren that a Negro was kidnapped from a Louisiana jail last week and almost lynched.

Los Angeles, Calif.

Green is confined to his home with an injury suffered on his job. His sister, Mrs. Daisy Armstrong, allegedly told the congress that a lynch mob stopped her car, looking for Green, while she was on a recent visit to Louisiana to bury her mother.

Sat. 3-12-49

13b 1949 Mississippi (Arkansas)

NEGRO BEING RETURNED TO FACE MURDER RAP

Appeal, Memphis Tenn

17-Year-Old Caught In DeQueen Goes Back To Vicksburg

DEQUEEN, Ark., June 21.(AP)—A 17-year-old negro was on his way back to Vicksburg, Miss., Tuesday to face a first degree murder charge.

The youth, John Allen Pullian, arrested here Monday when he attempted to pull a gun on a DeQueen police office, admitted killing an aged night watchman in Vicksburg early this year, Otto Finance, superintendent of Vicksburg police said Tuesday.

6-22-49 Wed.

VICKSBURG, Miss., June 21.—(AP)—Police Chief Albert Allen said Tuesday that a 16-year-old negro boy held in DeQueen, Ark., is wanted here for questioning in connection with the slaying of Jesse O. Waymire, who was found dead May 4.

Waymire, who was a cripple about 75 years of age, was found lashed to his bed and beaten to death with the butt of a pistol. Waymire was an assistant and night watchman in a second-hand store, and it was there that he met death. Wed. 6-22-49

Ailen listed the negro boy as James West Pullian, and said he was wanted also for questioning in connection with a series of burglaries.

No formal charges have been filed in the slaying case, but Allen said the youth was "linked with the case by articles left at the scene." A formal complaint charging the negro with the burglary of the second-hand store has been filed, Allen said. Among other things, a pistol and a shotgun were missing.

13b 1949 North Carolina (Ohio)

Ex-Farmer Charged With Attempted Attack Freed

Afro-American

Baltimore Maryland

Ohio Refuses to Honor Carolina's Bid for Extradition; Neighbors Covet Farm

(13B)

Jan 1-1-49

LORAIN, Ohio (NNPA)—Judge Malcolm Thomson of the Municipal Court played Santa Claus to Ira Coston, 45-year-old ex-farmer from Hendersonville, N.C., on Dec. 22, when he refused to order him extradited to North Carolina to face an indictment for "attempted criminal attack" on a 17-year-old white girl at his farm.

Coston, whose wife and two sons are still on his farm and will join him later, said he merely asked the alleged victim, Miss Belvie Laughter—who Carolina officials brought to Cleveland to testify—if she and some of her friends would like to pick beans on his farm.

Flees After Warning

Shortly after the girl reached town, Coston said, he was warned that a mob was coming to get him, but he had left the State when an indictment was drawn up against him. He said his white nieghbors coveted his farm which has some 1000 fruit trees.

He was first arrested in Cleveland and turned over to Carolina officials, but his attorney, Paul W. Wa[illegible] obtained a writ of habeas cor[illegible] through the law office of Se[illegible]obert A. Taft of Cincinnati.

No Law To Fit Charge

Jan 1-1-49

Coston was then returned to Cleveland and freed there by C[illegible]mon Pleas Judge Charles J. [illegible] Namee. He was again arrested here where he has been offered a job in a steel mill and plans to make his home.

During the hearing here, Robert L. Ratchford, executive secretary to Gov. Thomas J. Herbert, recommended that the request for Coston's extradition be denied. His attorney had convinced Ratchford in an extradition hearing in Columbus that there is no "attempt to rape" statute in North Carolina.

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Judge Says He Opposes Extradition to Chain Gang

The Worker

13b SC N.Y.

New York, N.Y.

By John Hudson Jones

Bronx Felony Court Judge Henri Schwob and Assistant District Attorney Walter H. Gladwin yesterday agreed that the governor of New York should not extradite James Wilson, 29, back to a South Carolina chain gang. Judge Schwob ruled, however, that he had to hold Wilson pending action by acting governor Joe R. Hanley.

Wilson was arrested in the Bronx May 7, two months after he escaped from a Sumpter County chain gang where he had served seven and a half years of a life sentence. 5-18-49

Judge Schwob made his statement after an impassioned plea by Civil Rights Congress attorney Abraham Unger asking the judge to refuse to hold Wilson, or at least to grant bail.

SEES 'CERTAIN DEATH'

Wilson would go to "certain death if returned to a state where a Negro cannot get justice," Unger told the court. "I think it's high time," he declared, "that the courts stop considering such cases as routine matters and look into the circumstances surrounding them."

"I have received a great many telegrams and letters about this case," the judge told Unger. "And if I were the governor I wouldn't sign the papers to send him back."

The judge added: "The district attorney is a colored man, and he doesn't want him to go back."

Gladwin nodded agreement and suggested that the New York Supreme Court might be the proper place for Unger to seek a writ of habeas corpus. Gladwin asked for an adjournment of the hearing until May 31. 5-18-49

SISTERS IN COURT

In court yesterday were Wilson's sisters, Mary Hardy and Ada Williams, of 647 Jefferson St., and his cousin Francis Williams, of 1765 Vyse Ave., where Wilson was arrested.

In tears, the three women who had themselves fled the vicious anti-Negro oppression in South Carolina, asked the Daily Worker to enlist the aid of New Yorkers to keep Wilson here.

"I know what'll happen to him if they get him back," Mrs. Hardy sobbed. "He's got lash marks on his back now where they beat him all the time. I'm asking everyone in this town to write letters and send telegrams to the governor not to send him back." 13b

In court yesterday was Elaine Ross, secretary of the Bronx CRC, accompanied by a score of citizens. The Worker

Miss Ross, through Unger, presented to Judge Schwob letters from two ministers asking that Wilson be given asylum in New York.

Bishop W. C. Willie, 48 W. 136 St., declared "It is a matter of record that a Negro returned to the chain gang after having been extradited is almost certainly doomed to death." New York N.Y.

The Rev. Mother Lena M. Stokes, 134 W. 129 St., wrote: "A return to the chain gang can only result in his 'sudden' death."

In a letter to Lt. Governor Hanley, William L. Patterson, national CRC executive secretary, asked an open hearing and requested that he be permitted to argue in Wilson's defense. 5-18-49

The New York CRC yesterday urged "every church, labor, and community organization to write and wire Hanley in Albany to prevent the return of James Wilson to the jurisdiction of the South Carolina racists."

Negro Held by Court for Return To Chain Gang

Daily Worker S.C.

13b N.Y., N.Y.

A 29-year-old Negro faces return to a South Carolina chain gang when his case comes up tomorrow (Tuesday), 10 a.m., at Bronx Magistrates Court. The New York Civil Rights Congress yesterday urged all organizations and individuals to protest the extradition of James Wilson, by writing and wiring the court, at Third Avenue and 161 Street, the Bronx. Because he escaped from jimcrow injustice, Wilson is being held without bail as a "fugitive from justice." Mon. 5-16-49

Wilson escaped from the Sumter County, S. C., chain gang on March 7.

He has vowed that he would "rather die than go back." For a week, Wilson had to hide in the woods. He worked desperately to saw the chains off his ankles, while search parties scoured the area.

When he finally released himself, he made his way, by night, to New York City.

Wilson was arrested last Saturday night at his aunt's house, 1765 Vyse Ave., Bronx, and is now being held at the Bronx Court.

Charles Jenkins, superintendent of the apartment house at 1765 Vyse Ave., was charged with harboring a fugitive and released under $1,000 bond.

The CRC put itself on record as opposed to the return of escaped prisoners to the medieval chain gangs of the South. Mon 5-16-49

"Extradition in this case," the statement declared, "would be an offense to all those who hold by the Bill of Rights guarantee against cruel and unusual punishment. The chain-gang system of the South is a national shame, a relic of slavery which the Federal government seems willing to condone. Prisoners are subjected to perpetual torture. Wilson was beaten many times with knotted ropes, and a lash. His body still bears the scars. 13b

"Action to save Wilson must be swift. The police and the courts of New York City are faithful to the O'Dwyer Administration's policy of brutality against the Negro people. Their attempt to rush proceedings through in this case can be stopped only by popular demand.

"We urge protest wires and letters to the court and attendance at the hearing Tuesday, where Wilson will be represented by CRC counsel," the CRC said.

Urge Protests Against Return Of Negro to Carolina Chain Gang

Daily Worker, New York 13b

Thu. 5-19-49

The New York Civil Rights Congress called on churches, trade unions, professional and community groups to join in the growing demand that New York State authorities prevent the return of James Wilson, 29-year-old Negro, to a South Carolina chain gang and "horrible death." 5-19-49

The call came after Bronx Magistrate Henri Schwab told a hearing: "If I were the Governor, I would not sign papers to send him back, either." Schwab's statement was in reply to a plea for Wilson's release by Abraham Unger, CRC attorney. The Magistrate said it was not in his authority to release Wilson and that he must give the Governor of New York 30 days to act. Assistant District Attorney Walter H. Gladwin, the first Negro District Attorney in Bronx County, joined in Schwab's opinion. 5-19-49

"Every church, labor, professional and community organization, every citizen must write and wire Acting Governor Joseph R. Hanley in Albany, to prevent the return of James Wilson to the jurisdiction of the South Carolina racists," the Civil Rights Congress declared.

13b 1949 Virginia(California)

Governor Warren Refuses to Return Lester Tate to Virginia Road Gang

Afro American. Baltimore, Md.

13b (Va) Calif

Says Ex-Prisoner Has Rehabilitated Himself in Calif.; Kilpatrick, Carwile Praise Act

RICHMOND

Virginia's plea to the State of California to return Lester Tate, escaped Virginia road camp prisoner, to this State was denied last Tuesday in a letter from Gov. Earl Warren to Gov. William M. Tuck of Virginia.

Baltimore Md.

Governor Warren's letter was couched in diplomatic terms and gave as his reason for refusal of Virginia's request the fact that Tate, now known as Albert L. Gee, has rehabilitated himself while in California.

Dec 12-17-49

Finds Prison System Brutal

Before Governor Warren acted finally on Tate's case, Vernon Kilpatrick, California assemblyman and chairman of the State's interim commission on crime and correction, made an investigation of Virginia's prison system and described it as one of the most brutal in the nation.

The California governor said he had reviewed carefully Tate's case at a hearing in Sacramento on Oct. 5 and learned that Tate has been employed in that State as a skilled mechanic in one firm since 1943.

Continuing, Governor Warren wrote:

"He is the father of four children and his wife is expecting another child. If he is returned to Virginia, his family will become a public charge. It has been further represented to me that his character has been excellent since his arrival in California.

Completely Rehabilitated

"This has been verified by his employer, his neighbors and his fellow employees. There is every indication that he has rehabilitated himself in California.

"This is a matter in which the State of California has a direct responsibility as well as an interest," the California executive continued.

"Considering all of the circumstances, I am of the opinion that the interests of justice would not be served in returning him to Virginia.

"I am, therefore, with the greatest reluctance withholding the warrant for rendition of this person."

Men Sleep in Chains

Mr. Kilpatrick, who branded Virginia's penal system as "inhuman and brutal," stating that "a thousand men are sleeping on chains nightly in Virginia prison camps."

He and his friend, Howard H. Carwile, white attorney, both complimented Governor Warren on his action.

The California assemblyman, was accompanied by Mr. Carwile on his visit to the Richmond AFRO office while touring Virginia's prison system.

Governor Tuck sought to brush off the Californian's indictment of the State's penal system and his accusations by belittling the assemblyman. He even asked the local FBI office to make an investigation of Mr. Kilpatrick's status.

FBI Issues Denial

In announcing that he had taken that action, Governor Tuck explained that the FBI had asked him to turn over to its agents names of all persons interceding in the Tate case. This statement was promptly denied by the FBI.

The FBI Office denied that it had no interest in the Gee case, but admitted that Governor Tuck had written a letter to that office requesting an investigation of Mr. Kilpatrick.

Governor Warren was complimented on refusing to honor Virginia's plea for Tate's extradition by Kilpatrick who had characterized this State's chief executive as "the smallest man that I have ever seen in a governor's chair."

"NOT GUILTY" OF SLAYING

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh Pa
Sept. 29-49

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — An all-white jury returned a "not guilty" verdict Wednesday in the case where Mrs. Flossie Mae Jones was charged with the slaying of Deputy Sheriff Dewey Rickles.

Negro Escapee Shot By Mobile Officer

Advertiser
Montgomery
Ala.
13c

MOBILE, ALA., July [illegible] (AP)—A Negro long-term convict who escaped from Atmore State Prison farm was shot and seriously wounded today by a Mobile detective.

7-13-49

The shooting of the Negro, James Edward Williams, 28, climaxed a wild chase through swamp country north of the city dump.

Detective Ralph Jordan said he shot Williams through the back with a .38 caliber revolver, but was unable to pull him out because of the muddy terrain.

A crew of city jail trusties later went in and brought him out. He was reported near death.

Model Captive Shot, Official Says, While Attacking Road Guard

(Negro)

GADSDEN, Ala., July 30—(AP)—A "model" state road camp prisoner who attacked a guard in an escape attempt was shot and critically wounded, a prison camp official said today.

News 7-31-49

Ned P. Rogers, assistant superintendent of Sumiton Prison Camp, said Guard R. J. Croft shot Henry Gordon, a Jefferson County Negro, three times when Gordon attacked Croft with a grass blade.

Birmingham
Ala.

THE BULLETS STRUCK Gordon in the stomach, arm and leg, wounding him critically, hospital attendants here said.

A Highway Department official at Montgomery who handles convicts said Gordon had served three years of a 10-year sentence for burglary in Jefferson County. He said Gordon was a model prisoner, as far as he knew.

13c

* * *

WILLIE JAMES, another Negro convict from Jefferson County, slipped away during the excitement. He was recaptured in 30 minutes.

The two men were members of a road maintenance crew working near Springville when the incident occurred yesterday.

2 Butler Negroes Face Murder Trial

Advertiser

Special to The Advertiser

GREENVILLE, ALA., Oct. 29—There is widespread interest in this area in the trial this week of two Negroes, father and son, on a charge of murdering a white farmer, Sam Stacy, of Midway.

Stacy's death resulted from a highway incident on Sept. 24, growing out of one truck passing another on the way to a cotton gin near here.

Journal 10-30-49

One truck was occupied by Sam Stacy and his brother, Herman; the other, by the two Negroes, Donnie Anderson, about 50, and his son, James, about 26, a Navy war veteran who was a stretcher bearer in the Pacific war.

13c
Montgomery
Ala.

A fight among the four men resulted. Hickory sticks, rocks and fists came into play.

It is understood that the prosecutor will seek to establish that the Negro men provoked the quarrel and that Sam Stacy received fatal wounds, including a punctured lung from a nail-spiked hickory stick.

Whereas the defense—Roderick Beddow, of Birmingham, one of the state's most widely known criminal lawyers—will contend that the white brothers provoked the quarrel in resentment over the fact that the Negroes passed their cotton truck. One Negro claims he was asleep in the truck when it started.

It is also said that the state's testimony that Stacy had a punctured lung will be challenged, raising the possibility that his exertions in the melee caused heart failure.

Man Found Shot Dead In Ditch

(Negro)

BESSEMER, Ala., Dec. 19—A 55-year-old Negro man was found shot to death in a ditch at Martintown, about three miles from here, this morning.

News. 13c Ala.

Sheriff's deputies identified the dead man as Robert Williams.

Williams, according to investigating officers, was shot through the head and chest with a .38 calibre revolver.

12-[illegible]-49

FLOGGING VICTIM HELD IN SLAYING

Times Picayune

(The Associated Press)

Jasper, Ala., Dec. 11 — A coa miner was shot to death Friday night and the husband of the dead man's former wife was charged with manslaughter. The accused man and the woman were flogged by a hooded and robed gang last April.

Mon. 12-12-49

The dead man was Robert P. Studdard, 44, of Dora. Coroner M. M. Posey said Albert Sanders, also of Dora and a coal miner, was arrested and placed in the county jail.

New Orleans

Sanders testified two days ago t Birmingham during a flogging rial that he, Mrs. Sanders and wo other persons were flogged ear Pumpkin Center, Ala.

Mrs. Sanders is the former Mrs. Studdard. She was separated from Studdard before the floggings.

Coroner Posey said Sanders told him he shot Studdard four times with a .32 caliber automatic at the Sanders home. Posey said Sanders gave this account:

Studdard, who had been drinking, came to the Sanders home about 9:30 p. m. He offered Sanders a cigarette, then followed Sanders into a bedroom and struck him in the face. Sanders pulled he pistol from beneath a bed pillow and fired four times. All the hots struck Studdard in the hest.

SHERIFF IS KILLED BY BULLET WOUND

(The Associated Press)

Little Rock, Ark., Dec. 7 — Searcy county sheriff Doyle Smith, 51, died in a Little Rock hospital Wednesday from a bullet wound suffered in a gun battle at Marshall, Ark., early Sunday.

13c

Ark

Prosecuting attorney Eugene Moore, Harrison, said charges probably will be filed Wednesday against Roy Bryan, 41, Marshall farmer, wounded by the sheriff in the exchange of shots. Bryan is under guard in a Harrison hospital.

Thurs. 12-8-49

State police sergeant W. D. Walker said the shooting started after sheriff Smith ordered Bryan to "stop drinking or go home."

Deputy Sheriffs Shoot and Kill Alleged Slayer

Sat. 12-31-49

CRAWFORDSVILLE, Ark. — Minus Wilson, alias Eddie Hall, sought since Dec. 9, following the fatal shooting of a woman and the wounding of two police officers was shot to death Monday by two deputy sheriffs.

He was accused of killing Mrs. Joe McDaniel, 37, wife of the Luxora, Ark., town marshall, and shooting and wounding her husband and Night Marshall Ralph Williamson.

13c Ark

Sheriff C. V. Goodwin said Deputies Gladstone Williams and C. M. Rieves were forced to shoot Wilson when he resisted arrest in a cafe. Shortlye before, Wilson is reported to have fired one shot at Mrs. Williams when she surprised him in her home while her husband was absent. Sheriff Goodwin said the deputies were searching for the man who had shot at Mrs. Williams. At the time they did not know identity. Mrs. Williams allegedly idetified Wilson as the man who shot at her, and Mississippi county officers "identified" him as the slayer of Mrs. Daniel-

13c 1949 California

Two don't like police methods may sue for false arrest

13c Calif

A graphic picture of how the police operate on a difficult case such as the murder of Mrs. Louise Springer, white May Co. hairdresser whose death has gone unsolved two weeks now, was furnished the Tribune today by two parties involved in the case by the law's frantic efforts to catch the killer.

Arrested last week and thrown to the press as "suspects" were two Negroes of apparently remote connection with the case who indicated today that they are seriously considering suit for false arrest.

At least one of them appears to have what might be a case. He is Charles Bratton, a tool worker, of 215 W. 46th st., who was arrested, according to his story, solely because he happened to be enroute home in the general vicinity of West 38th street where Mrs. Springer's mutilated body was found.

The Tribune

Bratton was held close to 24 hours, booked as a burglary suspect.

During that time he said the only mention he heard of the Springer case came from an officer who casually said to him, "You know you were arrested about the Springer case, don't you?"

Los Angeles Calif

Bratton said he answered, "You must be kidding." But when he was released Thursday night of last week, he read in the papers that he had been under suspicion, and had been "grilled," as a suspect in the slaying.

It was his first time in jail, Bratton said. He said he was walking homeward about 11 p. m. when officers picked him up. He said he asked them what burglary he was suspected of, but got no answer.

Sat. 7-28-49

Less lucky was Louis Russell, a car washer at a service station across from the parking lot where Mrs. Springer was last seen. No longer directly under suspicion of the Springer case, Russell got a 30-day sentence for drunkeness out of the deal, and is coming to a slow boil in jail where he has about 15 days to go.

Sat. 7-2-49

Outside, however, he has a champion, the woman reported in papers as having caused his arrest for peeping. Mrs. Ruth Anderson, a fearless lady of 3819 Wall st., tells a story of police duplicity which contains almost as many shockers as the dying grand jury [illegible]be.

The Tribune

The way it was, Mrs. Anderson also an employee, had an argument about the milking of cows and other chores Qualls was supposed to perform. Smith was not staisfied at the way Qualls was doing the work.

7-2-49

"The argument took place in front said indignantly: she and Russell, who has been her boy friend for four years, had a "little misunderstanding," and she locked him out of her home.

Los Angeles Calif

He was trying to get in and the proceedings grew a bit noisy so a neighbor, who thought she was helping out, phoned police.

That, says Mrs. Anderson, was a mistake. As matters stand now, she insists, and in the words she spoke to detectives, "I wouldn't call one of you guys if 50 machine guns were on me."

As a result of this bit of neighborliness, Mrs. Anderson said she has been insulted by the police, the man she loves has been jailed and unjustly maligned as a possible murderer in the public press, and she has been threatened numerous times over the telephone by indignant citizens who were persuaded by the misinformation in the press that she had played a traitor's role in causing Russell's arrest.

Police version of the arrest of Russell was that he was a "peeping tom," who tried to force entry onto Mrs. Anderson who held him at bay with a baseball bat.

This seemed to signify to them that he was also a sex maniac; and detectives have made numerous trips to her home, inquiring into Russell's sexual practices, Mrs. Anderson said; which she told them without any false modesty, were nothing in the nature of the bizarre doings about the corpse of poor Mrs. Springer.

That police haven't given up on Russell yet is indicated by the fact that they were back late this week, Mrs. Anderson said, inquiring as to the whereabouts of his car which they said was missing.

When police arrived in response to her neighbor's call, Mrs. Anderson said, they were abusive, uncomplimentary about her house, which they referred to as a "joint." One detective at University Street station called her a liar, she said, when she insisted Russell did not make his home with her and her 15-year-old daughter.

She is also aroused, Mrs. Anderson said, by a personal remark made to her over the phone by a detective during this week's continued investigation. The remark were unprintable.

Bootblack Confesses

Pretty Clerk, 21, Druggist Murdered

Courier Sat. 11-5-49

OAKLAND, Calif.—Jerry Newsom, an 18-year-old shoe shine boy, confessed to local police last Friday, after a lie detector test, that he had perpetrated the "Chinese execution" of a drug store manager and his 21-year-old clerk, in what Police Chief Lester Divine called "one of the most shocking and cruel crimes in the history of Oakland."

The slain drug store manager was Robert Savage, 40, married and father of an 11-day-old daughter. The murdered clerk was Mrs. Majorie Ruth Williams, 21, married and mother of a two-year-old daughter. Their bodies lay across each other in the position in which they were murdered.

Pittsburgh Pa.

"O. K. I done it. I shot the two people in the drug store," were the words blurted out by young Newsom. These words ended the mystery which had baffled police for several days while they hunted "the bandits" who forced the slain pair to kneel on the floor, clench their hands before their eyes, before pouring slugs from a .45 calibre automatic pistol into their brains. The killer then robbed the safe and cash register of some $612.

13c

KILLINGS WEEK-OLD

A city-wide hunt had been on since the brutal double killing took place on Saturday night, Oct. 22, **and it was just by chance that the police grasped the clue which led** them to uncover the brutal killer—a fuzzy-chinned teen-ager.

Police had arrested Newsom with other robberies and were questioning him about a housing project robbery which he admitted committing. Police said he had bagged a haul of $1,275 after he had forced the housing project manager to tie up two employes with a clothesline.

ASKED WRONG QUESTION

The callous young robber had admitted to that robbery and another in which he got a much smaller sum and as police questioned him, he suddenly asked: "What do you get if you kill somebody in a robbery?"

Courier

Sat. 11-5-49

With the dual Chinese execution fresh in their minds, the seventh and eighth Oakland homicides within seventeen days, the police quickly turned the question into a relationship with the drug store murders.

13c

Newsom was whisked away to Berkeley, where he was put through a two-hour lie detector test by Inspector A. E. Reidel, who solved the noted Ruth Farnsworth rape-murder on Guam. At first Newsom denied any knowledge of the killings, although admitting that he had been to the drug store on the same night, to bring sandwiches to the slain manager and clerk. He said, however, that the store was closed when he reached it and he himself ate the sandwiches for which they had sent him.

Police were working on the theory that the drug store employes were acquainted with the persons who slew them, and that the wanton slaying was to prevent future possibility of identification.

QUIZZED BY OFFICERS

Rigid questioning by two police officers, Claud Buchanan and Adrian Bridges, preceded the lie detector test, but Newsom confessed only to the previous robberies.

He had exactly $1.83 in his possession when he was arrested, although it was later revealed that he had gleaned over $2,000 from his hold-ups. Young Newsom, after his confession, said he had spent $600 for an auto, some $400 for jewelry and presents for girl friends and "just shot the rest."

After he had stoutly maintained having used a toy pistol in his robberies, Mr. Reidel said the lie detector showed definite and marked reactions whenever he would question Newsom about a .45 calibre automatic pistol, the weapon from which the fatal shots were fired. Finally, Inspector Reidel said he told Newsom, "Tell me all about it." Then came the words which ended the week-long search for the killer, who had committed one of the most horrible crimes on the West Coast in years.

Mrs. Williams' husband is a GI student at the University of California, and she came from a prominent Northern California family.

Mr. Savage's wife was prostrated by news of the crime and doctors feared that she might die from shock caused by the affair. She was taken to a local hospital.

Newsom originally came to California from Louisiana and attended high school here for a short time before taking a job as a bootblack. Suspicion was turned on him by his flashing large sums of money around his young friends, too much for a bootblack, they said.

TURNS UP DEATH GUN

After his confession, he showed police where he had secreted the .45 automatic with which he admitted having shot the pair through their heads. It was hidden in a deflated inner tube of an auto belonging to one of his relatives.

Police jailed his uncle and aunt, James and Sarah Newsom, with whom he lived at 42 Tangier Street. They were held for investigation.

13c 1949 California

Some reflections on Negro men, inspired by the sorry plight of one Mr. Leroy Slade

Los Angeles, Calif. By Almena Davis

Leroy Slade, the lost young man who is on trial for his life in Judge Harry Borde's usually sleepy Santa Monica courtroom for the murder of plump, allegedly tart-tongued Mrs. Frances Duben, is a man who has nothing for either a reporter or a psychiatrist to do, it is clear.

Of course he has politely refrained from puncturing my shapely bosom with knife wounds similar to those which mar the plump chest of Mrs. Duben in those shocking photographs I seemingly am always stumbling upon, no matter where I move in that courtroom; but I have gathered from the way he has glowered at me from his large, brown eyes and from the manner of his address—"Hey, you!"—he calls me, that my kind is among the things he can do without. But on the subject of psychiatrists, he has expressed himself in no uncertain terms.

(13c)

Take it from Leroy Slade, psychiatrists are a bunch of phonies.

Sat. 6-18-49

I was exchanging small talk with the deputy sheriff who chauffeurs Slade acrosstown daily from the County Jail atop the Hall of Justice to the court where petulant Mervyn Aggeler is haranguing a jury to give him Slade's life. Pursuant to reading the reports of the court-appointed psychiatrists, who were agreed that Slade is sane and was sane at the time he killed Mrs. Duben, and further that he is in a singularly dull-average and uninteresting state of sanity, I was avowing an interest in psychiatry to this deputy sheriff.

"Hey you," someone said without the tenderness with which I am accustomed to being addressed: and I turned to face the exceptionally large, distended-looking brown irises of Mrs. Slade.

He surprised me so that my photographic memory didn't register the exact words of his next remark, and naturally I couldn't be so rude to take notes right before his eyes. But the gist of the intelligence he wanted to convey, rather feverishly put, was that if a man had the powers a psychiatrist pretends to, that of reading and deducing the state of mind of people, he would be a natural 7, an unbeatable combination in a poker game, and a disaster to the gambling coterie. 6-18-49

What with my natural instincts to draw him out for my readers, coupled with my feelings of pity for a fellow human being in one hell of a situation, I could hardly have argued with the guy, even had the time and place permitted. I mumbled something stupid and turned my attention to the testimony then in progress.

When court had recessed, I stepped over to the chair from which Mr. Slade was regarding me with his stare which is a mixture of defensiveness and of a cat's inscrutability, and thereby becomes nastily superior, and asked him, "Did you mean by what you said that psychiatrists are only bluffing, and it is impossible for them to tell anything about a man's state of mind?"

His answer was, "Exactly;" and there our conversation ended.

6-18-49

The three psychiatrists who had examined Mr. Slade had all turned in brief and unexciting reports about his life and times and mental state (born in Texas, reared in Oklahoma, ex-GI, ex-cook, odd-jobs and handyman; occasionally reads newspapers; never reads books.) The consensus of opinion was that he was sane at the time he punctured the right and left breasts of Mrs. Frances Duben with mortal wounds, and that he was sane at the time of examination; further that he is "a well developed and well nourished negro" with no history of mental disorder; if anything that he is mentally dull and undeveloped, but that he "understands ethical standards sufficiently to know that it is wrong to murder."

All these learned gentlemen observed that Slade smiled when first approached about the killing of Mrs. Slade; and his first response was that he didn't know why he had killed her, then he would state that he didn't like the way she had spoken to him.

The smile did not establish that he was oblivous to his situation, the psychiatrists agreed. They didn't say so, but it was probably of a sheepish nature, passing for an apology to society for his crime. The psychiatrists were agreed that he realized the seriousness of his situation although he preferred to ignore it, as he "ignored many events and processes that are a part of his environment."

All were agreed that Slade was a "pleasant . . . cooperative" chap, whose moods were not given to "extreme or sudden fluctuations" . . who had no "grasp of the abstract" . . . and who "expressed no abnormal ideas."

* * *

I was interested in the fact that nowhere in the psychiatrists' report was there anything to indicate that they, as the court's conductory agents of Slade's menal condition, were aware of the "events and processes" that had been a part of Slade's environment.

I was interested because if you are aware of the "events and processes" that were a part of Slade's environment, why then a much wider potential of abnormal behaviour for Slade is apt to be opened for your consideration.

For instance, if you were aware of the pressures of society on the Negro male, which are different from the pressures of society on the white male, the white female, or the Negro female, you would necessarily conclude that certain patterns of behaviour, certain intensities and extremes of behaviour, would perhaps be pathological and not entirely a matter of individual responsibility.

For instance, there is the pressure the Negro male is under to be a man in a society which treats him like an amiable, rather simpleminded, boy. His instincts, his responsibilities, his intelligence say, "You are a man." Greater Society, which is white society, says "You are a boy," and a rather simple boy at that, albeit good-natured and amiable." 6-18-49

The compulsion therefore, is to prove that one is not a boy, and the expression of this compulsion, contingent upon the individual's opportunities for development, can become pathological to the point where one rapes or murders to prove one's equality.

I am not asserting that Leroy Slade raped Mrs. Frances Duben to establish his manhood before her, or that he murdered her out of wounded manhood; I'll leave such assertions to the legal lights arguing the case. But I do contend that either is possible. Furthermore, that the Negro male, in general, has been lathered to a state of nervous irritability expressing itself in a wide range of behaviour, from mere Don Juan complexes to crime, by the lack of opportunity to find himself, coupled with the overwhelming burden placed on a man by society to be a "man among men."

Negro women are in a much less of a strain. The spur to a woman's ego, be she white or black, is inward. Society asks only that she be moral and circumspect, and she can be as stupid, as drab, as humble as she will.

Not so the male. White or black, he is compelled by tradition to be superior to the female; and no exception is made for Negro men in this traditional ruling as regards white women. He still grows up somehow under the delusion that he must be paid tribute by any female, white, black, or yellow; if not class, cultural, or financial tribute, certainly sexual, whether latent or active.

(13c)

The Negro male, possibly because broad intellectual contacts have been denied him and he is yet unaware of the shift toward equality of the sexes, is more hopelessly committed to the premise of male superiorty than the white. He bristles with antagonisms toward women which must either be dispelled by their comparative ignorance, stupidity, or weakness, or by the establishbent of his sexual dominance over her. And he is so outmoded as to construe "possession" or "having" of a woman as dominance of her, a misapprehension if there ever was one in view of the women, white and black, who have bedded down with a man one night only to fail to recall the details of his features the next day. 6-18-49

Ridiculous though it may be, the fact remains that the Negro male exists nervously in a borderland, dividing the archaic concept of women as inferiors from the new and easy freedomland of equality, in which concessions made are a matter of grace and genuine respect, rather than condescension. This is one of the contributing factors toward the race's high rate of violence and battle across sexual lines, especially among the ignorant members.

PRINCIPAL — witness for the prosecution against her common-law husband is Mrs. Blanche Jones, Duben home domestic, who reluctantly testified to events immediately following woman's murder.

13c 1949

D. C.

Murder Verdict Is Returned In Slaying of D. C. Druggist

The Washington Post

Washington, D.C.

13c

Lawrence Goodall, 24, of 412 Oakdale pl. nw., was found guilty of first degree murder yesterday, in the holdup slaying of Nathaniel Johnson, 53, Washington druggist, last October 12. Tues.

The verdict of the District Court jury of eight men and four women carries with it a mandatory death sentence. 3-22-49

Foreman John B. Blaiklock, 5507 Carolina pl. nw., superintendent of equipment for Capital Transit Co., delivered the jury's unanimous decision at 8:10 last night, 6 hours and 10 minutes after receiving the case.

Federal Judge Richmond B. Keech turned the case over to the jury at 2 p. m. after instructing the panel that it could find for first degree murder, second degree murder or acquittal.

Advised by a defense attorney as the jury filed in to "keep your chin up, no matter how it comes out," the slight, stooped Negro, open-necked in a brown sport jacket and brown trousers, stood motionless while his fate was reported.

Defense Attorney Albert Goldstein told reporters immediately afterward he would ask for a new trial but did not specify the grounds.

13c

"Buddy" Accuses Him

Edward Jackson, jr. 25, 304 Dixon ct. sw., a "buddy" of Goodall's whom Goodall met some years ago when both were inmates of the National Training School for Boys, proved to be a star witness for the prosecution.

Jackson, who accompanied Goodall the night of the crime, had pleaded guilty to second-degree murder as "lookout man" during the holdup. Testifying against Goodall, however, Jackson denied being an accomplice.

Jackson said the pair had been drinking and that Goodall suggested robbing the store at 600 3d st. sw. He declared his efforts to dissuade Goodall were unavailing and that Goodall went into the store alone while he continued to walk toward home.

Jackson asserted he heard a shot and shortly after Goodall ran up to him exclaiming breathlessly "I had to shoot him."

Identified by Customer

The Washington Post

A woman customer in the drugstore at the time and a 16-year-old boy just about to enter the store identified Goodall as the killer. The woman testified Goodall shouted "this is a holdup" and fired as Johnson turned to flee.

This evidence was recalled to the jury in final arguments by Prosecutors John C. Conliff and John Lane.

13c

In his final argument, Defense Counsel Alfred Goldstein, terming Jackson a "confessed murderer, liar and perjurer," told the jury that he was the real culprit and "is now placing the crime on other shoulders to escape blame."

In the instructions, Judge Keech told the jury that a slaying during the commission of a felony is murder in the first degree. He said a second degree verdict may be brought if the jury found the defendant was "so drunk as to be incapable of forming the intent to rob." Washington, D.C.

Testimony at the trial brought out that both Jackson and Goodall had been drinking the night of the murder. Tues. 3-22-49

13c

Ormond Beach Slayer Defies Long Manhunt

Atlanta Constitution
Atlanta Georgia

Identity of a gunman who five months ago this weekend killed an East Point secretary and her companion at Ormond Beach, Fla., remains unsolved.

Sheriff Alex Littlefield, of Volusia County, Fla., said last night he is "still looking" for the slayer of Miss Mary Hucks, of 128 Newnan Ave., East Point, and Gregory Blount, of Lexington, Ky.

Sheriff Littlefield said no charge in connection with the case has been placed against Clarence Alburty, Negro escapee from Florida and Georgia prisons. Sheriff W. M. Harris arrested Alburty near Camilla and reported Alburty confessed participation in the beach slayings, which had occurred two weeks previously.

Jan. 16-49

A Georgia prison camp warden later said Alburty was in custody at the time of the slayings and could not have been involved. He said Alburty escaped from a work gang a few days after Miss Hucks and Blount were killed.

Sheriff Littlefield refused comment last night on any connection Alburty was accused of having with the case. He said the Negro is being held while the investigation continues.

"I won't say a man is guilty unless I have proof," Sheriff Littlefield commented.

He said no other arrests have been made in connection with the case since Alburty was carried to an undisclosed Florida jail several months ago. He said Alburty already faces prison terms totalling 49 years in Florida and 16 years in Georgia on previous charges.

Sheriff Littlefield said he is convinced two persons participated in the slayings.

Jan. 16-49

The body of Miss Hucks was found the night of Aug. 14 a few hundred feet from where Blount had been slain. Evidence indicated she put up a terrific battle with her assailant. Investigating officers said she was criminally assaulted.

Belief was expressed later that Miss Hucks, who was on vacation, and Blount, University of Kentucky student, had gone on the beach to hunt turtle eggs.

Arrest Officers Who Beat 2

TAMPA, Fla.—Four police officers were arrested here recently charged with beating up two Negro prisoners.

Defender

The men were identified as Police Chief William C. Brock, S., of Mulberry; Police Chief William H. DeVault, of Bartow; Roscoe W. Thornhill, Bartow policeman and Paul Jennings of Lakeland, deputy sheriff.

Sat. 8-6-49

Lee Houston, 19, was beaten, choked and cut allegedly by Brock and Jennings who were trying to get her to tell where her husband, Willie Houston, had gone. Houston was charged with assault.

Chicago

The federal indictment charges DeVault and Thornhill with beating James Williams, 19, in an attempt to get him to say another Negro had stolen a pistol and money.

13c Fla.

Williams is reported to have been beaten so badly that internal injuries, including kidney hemorrhages, resulted. U.S. attorney stated that Mrs. Houston received knife scars that were clearly photographed 10 days later.

Belated Action Taken Against Mobsters as Reign of Terror Spreads Over South

Afro-American 7-30-49 Baltimore Md.

18 Hoodlums Indicted in Alabama; Probe Demanded in Stomping of Crazed Prisoner

A reign of terror spread over the South last week as white mobsters, masked and unmasked, launched acts of violence against four colored and white persons in Dixiecrat States.

13c

General

Major acts of violence were the following:

Groveland, Fla. — Suspects in attack robbery case nearly lynched; entire colored population run out of town by armed whites who shot into and burned up homes.

Birmingham, Ala.—A colored and a white man flogged by an unmasked gang.

New Orleans, La.—Deranged man, accused of slaying priest, stomped to death in jail cell while bound by a strait jacket.

Columbia, Tenn.—Unmarried couple beaten by mob.

Chattanooga, Tenn. — Bomb thrown at house sold to colored family.

THE FLORIDA CASE

The wave of terror against residents of Groverand and nearby communities followed the arrest of first two and then a third man in connection with the alleged kidnaping of a young white couple, the assault of the wife and robbery of the husbanu on Saturday, July 16.

Altogether four men were accused of the kidnaping. Two suspects, Walter Irvin and Samuel Shepherd, were arrested shortly thereafter, and only the "fast talking" of sheriff, W. V. McCall, prevented the lynching of the two by a mob of 100 men who converged on the jail at nearby Tavares.

The third suspect, Charles Greenlee, was taken later.

Immediately after being turned away by the sheriff, the armed mob rushed to Groveland, drovc through the colored sections of the small town shouting threats and firing their guns.

The mob dispersed about 4 o'clock Sunday morning after Sheriff McCall and his deputies fired tear gas bombs at the group. Earlier the sheriff had requested a small contingent of State Guardsmen.

Outnumbered, they agreed to withdraw after leaders of the mob promised that there would be no further violence. However, less than 15 minutes after the withdrawal, three colored homes went up in smoke.

As acts of terrorism increased, the 400 residents of the town sneaked away, many aided by whites fearing a possible massacre.

As the situation grew tense, the entire roster of the 116th Field Artillery Battalion (300 men) was ordered to the scene. With their arrival, open defiance of law ended.

With the restoration of order, some of the 400 colored residents of the community began trickling back to their homes. However, the guard was maintained to prevent the recurrence of outbreaks.

Reaction in Clermont Feared

Other members of the State Guard had to be sent to Clermont, six miles east of here, after reports were received that whites were trying to stir up trouble there. Eleven years ago, every colored home in Clermont was burned down following an interracial dispute.

The 3 men held in the kidnaping attack were indicted Wednesday night by a grand jury which contained the first colored ever accepted for jury service in Lake County.

Meanwhile, the general area has taken on the aspects of a military camp, with barracks and mess halls set up throughout the city and machine guns set up at strategic points.

THE BIRMINGHAM CASE

In Birmingham, while the grand jury was continuing its probe into recent floggings, cross burnings and threats by mobs, a white man revealed on July 20 that he and a colored man were beaten by members of an armed mob.

The man, Dolph Bailey, 25, said that their attackers, none of whom wore masks, took him and S. J. Thomas to Goodwater, about 70 miles away, tied them to trees and lashed them with a sawmill belt.

Thomas, who was chased away (Bailey was left bound and had to free himself) was reported in a "fair condition" in a nearby hospital. He was a farm student under the GI Bill of Rights.

Bailey, who proudly declared that he himself is a member of the Klan, said emphatically that the mobsters were not Klansmen.

Two Fingered as Lashers

Later, two white men, Bobby Buckner and Buck Burkhalter were arrested and held in jail under $5,000 bonds as the men who wielded the lash. Bailey positively identified them.

As violence spread, State officials intensified their drives against it, singling our for special attention the Ku Klux Klan.

The Klan itself was in a state of confusion. One reason was that Dr. E. P. Pruitt, head of the Federated Ku Klux Klan, Inc., resigned and gave as his reason the fact that he did not like its methods.

He said that cross burning was not so bad but that he could not tolerate the types of violence practiced by the new, trashy recruits.

"I differ with some of the elements that have wormed their way into the Klan—men use Klan robes to go out and whip people," he explained.

With his resignation, William H. Morris was left unchallenged as head of the State's Klansmen. However, Morris is in jail, where he was sent for contempt on July 7 for refusing to bring Klan records before a grand jury.

Also in jail are several of 18 persons indicted by the grand jury on charges of participating in masked floggings. They include a former special deputy sheriff and a minister.

Five of the group were held without bail. Practically all have been identified by their victims.

Prayed Over Victim

The 18th man indicted, the Rev. R. C. Lyons, was charged by one of the Klan's victims with praying over him just before the lash was applied.

Several members of the grand jury themselves were facing probes following the revealation that one or several were ex-Klansmen.

In addition, Circuit Solicitor Emmett Perry, prosecutor in the cases, admitted that both he and Judge George L. Bailes of Circuit Court were both former Klansmen.

However, Perry said that he broke with the group after recognizing the "folly that the Klan of yesterday was heading for."

THE NEW ORLEANS CASE

In New Orleans, the Catholic Church itself is leading the fight for justice in the case of Frank Bates, longshoreman, who was "found" dead in a straight-jacket last week while confined to "murderers' row."

A mental case, Bates had been indicted by the grand jury in the slaying of Father John F. Neifert, a Josephite priest.

Bates, according to the police signed a statement confessing to have fatally attacked "his priest" Father Neifert on July 8 with a 10 pound hook while the latter knelt in prayer in the church which he pastored.

Bates then was sent to the parish prison where he was confined with condemned murderers. At first he was handcuffed and bound in shackles. On becoming more violent, according to the sheriff, the victim was put in a strait-jacket in which he was "found" dead by a cell mate who notified the jailer.

Believed Stomped to Death

A coroner's jury said that Bates died of a heart attack. However, an autopsy revealed two broken ribs, blackened eyes and other injuries. John Grosch, criminal sheriff, said that he believed Bates was hurt in falling during one of his violent spells.

The consensus of opinion was that he was stomped to death.

Following news of the suspect's mysterious death, Archbishop Joseph F. Rummell blasted parish prison officials for their failure to provide adequate medical attention for a known mental case. He called for a full investigation, as did the archdiocesan unit of the Catholic Committee of the South, which said in a statement:

"Secret trial conviction and execution by anonymous police officers is the pattern of Nazi and Communist tyranny, and we must make sure that that pattern does not become established in America."

Also protesting the action was Local 1419 of the International Longshoremen's Association, to which Bates belonged; the NAACP and the State Civil Rights Congress.

THE COLUMBIA CASE

In Columbia, scene of the infamous riots of two years ago, Sheriff Flo Fleming said last Monday that he has launched a probe into the reported beating of a man and a woman near the city, Saturday.

The sheriff said the two have apparently fled the area, making an investigation difficult.

A neighbor reported he was at the home of the unmarried couple when about 50 men in automobiles stopped in front of the house. He said he left hurriedly, and about 16 men got out of the cars, and beat the couple. The remainder of men in the groups stayed in the cars.

The neighbor, who was not identified by the sheriff, said the couple showed marks of a severe beating the next day, but they have not been seen since.

THE CHATTANOOGA CASE

In Tennessee's third largest city, Chattanooga, a dynamite bomb was thrown on the front porch of the home recently bought by Woodrow Smith, who works for a local engineering company.

No one was injured, but the blast ripped a hole in the porch and shattered a window and screen.

It is believed that the bomb was thrown from an automobile. Mrs. Smith, who said that she was awake when the explosion occurred, told policemen that a car had parked across the street about six minutes before the bomb went off. It sped away before the bomb went off.

Mr. Smith said that he bought the house from the white owner. Although it is in an otherwise all-white block, the area generally is populated by colored persons.

Colored People Made City, Loss Feared by White Leaders

GROVELAND, Fla. — White leaders of this community, especially the businessmen, have condemned the hoodlums whose actions last week forced the 400 colored residents to flee the town.

Because the colored people are a vital part of our economy, they say, the violence will mean the end of the community. In fact, they say, "some of the ringleaders owe everything they have to the colored people."

They point out that other communities have withered after similar occurrences. They point to the case of Ocoee, which lost its entire colored population after a riot there 25 years ago and never regained its former standing.

13c 1949

Georgia

Changing Attitude Of Fulton Jurors Seen In Race Killings

Atlanta

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the second in a series of articles dealing with Negroes involved in the killing of other Negroes.)

13c Ga.

By ROBERT E. JOHNSON

Now days it seems to be a matter of common knowledge among Negroes that if a Negro kills another Negro, the police and courts are likely to take the attitude "Just another n - - -r killing", and let the offender off with a light sentence—if one at all.

Such an attitude, Negro leaders say, makes Negro homicides a particular problem in Atlanta. They point out that such double standard of administering the law encourages Negro killings which, in turn, seriously threaten our cultural growth and steady strides toward racial assimilation—the fusion of attitudes and life values that result in closer unity among all citizens.

Wed. 9-28-49

The point of view advanced by these leaders has some basis in facts but there is a strong indication that there is a kind of unmistakable integrity of virtually all of the city homicide detectives in their efforts to apprehend Negro murder offenders. Their records prove that they are well-trained and adequate to the tasks imposed upon them to suppress crimes by apprehending the criminal offenders.

However, as Detective J. M. Pack points out, the fact that many Negro murders grow out of sudden anger and violent fighting there is little difficulty encountered in identifying the murder suspect.

For example, a confessed rifle slayer who gave himself up told city detectives, "(the victim) and me been fighting, shooting and cutting each other up off and on for two years. I got word that he wanted a showdown so I met him with my rifle and shot first."

This is representative of a majority of homicide incidents investigated, particularly where the principals in the slayings are slum dwellers and have to "hustle" a living by their "hook or crook."

Whereas, homicide detectives have confidence in the role they play in apprehending offenders, there seems to be some doubts placed in the jurors for conviction.

Yet, a comparative study of the disposition of Negro and white prisoners tried in Fulton Superior courts for murder of Negroes and whites respectively from January 1944 thru May 1949 show clearly the attitude of the courts, particularly, the attitude of jurors who have been criticized on the grounds that in many cases they were unqualified to pass intelligently on the facts at hand. The following table shows the disposition of both Negro and white prisoners for the five-year period previously referred to:

ALL NEGRO HOMICIDES

No. P's'ners	Offense	Disposition
34	Murder	1 to 5 yrs.
23	Manslaughter	1 to 5 yrs.
30	Murder	5 to 10 yrs.
7	Manslaughter	5 to 10 yrs.
12	Murder	10 to 15 yrs.
5	Manslaughter	10 to 15 yrs.
25	Murder	15 to 20 yrs.
10	Manslaughter	15 to 20 yrs.
63	Murder	Life Imp's'nt
6	Murder	Death P'lty
29	Murder	Not Guilty
1	Manslaughter	Not G'lty

ALL WHITE HOMICIDES

2	Murder	1 to 5 yrs.
10	M'slaughter	1 to 5 yrs.
5	Murder	5 to 10 yrs.
2	M'slaughter	5 to 10 yrs.
1	M'slaughter	10 to 15 yrs.
3	Murder	15 to 20 yrs.
7	Murder	Life Imp's'nt
0	Murder	Death P'lty
1	M'slaughter	Not Guilty
7	Murder	Not Guilty

Since the number of Negro homicide offenders outnumber the whites by such a large margin, the attitude of the courts can be seen, in regards to race, clearer by looking at the above figures in terms of percentage. For example:

During the year 1944, forty-two Negroes were tried on homicide charges. Approximately 9 per cent of the homicide offenders were sentenced to serve from 1 to 5 years; 28 per cent were sentenced 5 to 10 years; 8 per cent 10 to 15 years; 20 per cent 15 to 20 years; 23 per cent life imprisonment; 3 per cent death penalty and 9 per cent acquitted.

During the same year, 14 whites were tried on homicide charges. Approximately 25 per cent were sentenced to serve from 5 to 10 years; 25 per cent 15 to 20 years; 37 per cent life imprisonment; 12 per cent acquitted.

Two years later, in 1946, thirty-seven Negroes faced homicide charges. Approximately 23 per cent were sentenced 1 to 5 years; 8 per cent 5 to 10 years; 4 per cent 10 to 15 years; 8 per cent 15 to 20 years; 38 per cent life imprisonment; 18 per cent acquitted.

In the same year, 8 whites were sentenced in the following manner: 28 per cent 1 to 5 years; 43 per cent 5 to 10 years; 28 per cent life imprisonment.

Another representative year is 1948. Of the 46 Negroes facing homicide charges, approximately 16 per cent were sentenced 1 to 5 years; 6 per cent 5 to 10 years; 4 per cent 10 to 15 years; 4 per cent 15 to 20 years; 34 per cent life imprisonment; 31 per cent acquitted.

Only 8 white prisoners faced homicide charges in 1948. Approximately 100 per cent were acquitted.

Solicitor General Paul Webb, in discussing the disposition of Negro prisoners involved in killing other Negroes, admitted that much criticism has been directed against the courts administration of justice where Negroes are involved. He points out, however, that punishment for Negro homicide offenders poses a judicial problem. Some of the problems will be discuessed in the next article of the series.

SLUM AREAS, TOO, A CAUSE

The Constitution Atlanta, Ga.

13c

Killings Among Negroes Blamed on Court Laxity

Wed. 7-27-49

Editor's Note: This is another article on Negro crime in the Atlanta area, its causes and suggested cures. An earlier article presented city and county officials' views on the subject. Today's sets forth suggestions of some of Atlanta's leading Negro citizens for reducing the number of Negro homicides.

By CLARK HOWELL, JR.

Thoughtful Negro leaders know there is no single cure-all for the problem of wholesale slaughter among the members of their race.

They realize, too, their economic status correlates invariably with the economic status of the white man.

Wed. 7-27-49

How, they ask, can the economy of a given community prosper if the buying power of one third of the citizens is greatly curtailed?

Approximately one-third of Atlanta's poulation is Negroes. The Negro third of the city's population lives on a fifth of the city's land, in densely populated areas, in houses two-thirds of which are in need of major repair.

Out of these festering areas erupts an endless stream of Negro crime—everything from petty larceny to murder.

There are encouraging signs, however. Negro killings for the first half of '49 are down from the same period last year. The figures are: 29 Negro murders during the first six months of 1949, 50 Negro murders for the first six months of 1948.

Negro leaders attribute this decrease to the Negro police.

"You can tell the difference in the atmosphere on the avenue," said Mrs. G. T. Hamilton, executive director of the Atlanta Urban League, looking out of her office window on the cluttered Negro business section of Auburn Avenue.

7-27-49

Leading Negro citizens are urgently appealing for additional Negr policemen for the many unpatrolled Negro areas.

At present there are five Negro policemen on the city police force. They are asking for 15 or 20 more.

In addition to more Negro police, most Negro leaders agree that a uniform code of punishment in the courts for both whites and Negroes would aid tremendously in reducing Negro killings. They contend that a Negro is rarely ever sentenced to life imprisonment for killing another Negro, much less being sentenced to electrocution, and the result is that Negroes kill each other with little fear of getting more than one to three years.

"I've heard Negroes openly threaten to kill each other and in the next breath say they would get some smart lawyer to get them off with practically nothing," said C. A. Scott, editor and general manager of the Atlanta Daily World.

"They just know that they're not going to receive the same punishment a white man would receive for killing another white man," the Negro editor points out.

"The courts probably think they are helping the Negro people by going light on the Negro killers," Scott went on. "But actually they are doing tremendous harm by lowering the bars for other Negro killers."

13c Wed. 7-27-49

Now listen to what a leading Negro minister, Dr. William Holmes Borders, pastor of the Wheat Street Baptist Church, has to say on the subject:

"The Negro knows full well that if he gets inte any kind of trouble with a white man, no matter who is actually at fault, the Negro is always wrong.

"Because of this situation, the Negro's psychological outlook is bound in a mental straight-jacket. He is frustrated. When the Negro is among his own people he explodes from this psychological straight-jacket with his determination to show that he is a man," Dr. Border continued.

"This mentai explosion along with the fact that he knows the courts will not punish him as severely as they would a white man leads to mass slaughter among the Negro people."

Dr. Borders' church is located "within a stone's throw of one of the worst Negro crime areas."

He says frankly that the church has all but failed to reduce Negro crime.

"Negro churches are used as worship centers only—a place to sing and shout," he went on. "We have failed to set forth any practical program in terms of the needs of the community."

By a practical program Dr. Borders means providing playgrounds and recreational facilities in crowded slum areas where the Negro children have no place to play but in the streets.

He worries about the crowded shattered hovels in which his people live—four and five families in a house not large enough for one.

Wed. 7-27-49

"Our economic life is destitute," he says. "A hungry man is far more likely to do wrong than one with a full stomach."

And then, too, he points out that the Negroes' schools are poorer than the white man's schools. The per-pupil expenditure for instructional service in the Atlanta public school system for the school year 1947-48 was $61.65 for the Negro child as compared with $143.75 for the average white child.

The argument against this is that white people pay the major part of taxes.

"If we were in power," said Dr. Borders, "we would probably do as bad or worse. Power, you know, is a dangerous thing."

He does believe, however, that increasing the Negro police force would be an immediate help in further reducing Negro crime.

Dr. Borders, through the Wheat Street Baptist Church, has opened a playground adjacent to the church and is planning a recreational building for his people in the future.

Turpentine Worker, 50 Years Old Shot At Scene Of Mallard Lynching

13c Ga

Defender

LYONS, Ga. — In this little southern town made notorious less than a year ago by the brutal ambush slaying of Robert Mallard, another Negro was killed under mysterious circumstances last week.

Lemon Ricks, about 50 years old, was killed by pistol shot after an argument with three white men. According to Sheriff Robert E. Gray, the three men are being held, one as the slayer and the other two as material witnesses. Ricks was a turpentine worker.

In November last year Robert Mallard and his wife were driving along a road near Lyons. Their car was stopped by several white men and a few minutes later, Mallard was dead from gunshot.

Mrs. Mallard identified several of the men later, but no one was sentenced for the brutal slaying.

In the recent killing Woodrow Williamson, 25, admitted he fired the shot after which all three men fled the scene. Lester Mixon, at the scene of the crime, surrendered after hearing of the arrest of the other two. one of whom was Causs Williamson, father-in-law of Woodrow.

According to Chief Keen, the victim was charged with arson recently for setting fire to a white man's house. The house, however, did not belong to either of the three involved in the shooting.

Truman Won't See Ingram Delegation

Daily Worker, New York

New York

Mon. 5-30-49

President Truman's schedule is too "fully occupied" to see a Negro and white delegation June 1, bearing petitions urging him to act in the case of Mrs. Rosa Lee Ingram, Negro mother of ten sentenced to life imprisonment, it was revealed yesterday. The delegation, sponsored by the National Committee to Free the Ingram Family, however, will visit the White House as well as the U. S. Attorney General, bearing thousands of signatures from all over the nation demanding Mrs. Ingram's freedom.

Mon. 5-30-49

President Truman's curt refusal came in a letter from his assistant David K. Niles, to Mrs. Mary Church Terrell, prominent Negro woman leader, and chairman of the Ingram Committee.

Mrs. Terrell had written Truman a week prior to Niles letter, asking that he use his influence to free the Negro mother and two of her sons, serving life in Georgia prisons for the self-defense killing of a white farmer who molested her.

5-30-49

Mrs. Maude Katz, administrative secretary of the committee, declared yesterday that hundreds of leaders have been wired, asking that they, in turn, wire Truman demanding that he rescind his snub and see the delegation. Mrs. Katz asked that others send Truman telegrams urging him to see the delegation.

The New York delegation, to be led by Mrs. Ada B. Jackson, Brooklyn leader, will leave the Pennsylvania Station Wednesday at 7:30 a.m. The national delegation will be led by Mrs. Terrell.

In Washington, delegates will convene at the YWCA, 901 Rhode Island Ave., N.W. at 12 noon. They will then visit the White House and the Attorney General's office.

The Ingram Committee has invited Mrs. Amy Hunt, Mrs. Ingram's mother, to participate in the presentation of the petitions. Also invited to participate are Mrs. Bessie Mitchell, sister of one of the six Negroes framed for murder in Trenton, N. J. Mrs. Amy Mallard widow of a Negro lynched in Georgia; and Mrs. William Milton, widow of a Negro shot dead in the back by a New York policeman.

TWO INDICTED, ONE HELD IN BALDWIN BRUTALITIES

13c

Daily World

Atlanta, Ga.

MILLEDGEVILLE, Ga.-(SNS)-Marion Stembridge, white grocer, was indicted here Wednesday for the slaying of Mrs. Emma Johnkin, while Baldwin County Coroner Sam Terry was indicted for assault with intent to murder Mrs. Emma Jane Harrison.

Thu. 7-14-49

The two Negro women were shot last March 7 when Stembridge and Terry, his employe, went to their home to collect a debt. It was alleged that an argument broke out and Stembridge shot Mrs. Johnkin while Terry shot the other women

In nearby Gordon, a coroner's jury cleared G. H Miller in the slaying of Thomas E Porter, Porter allegedly was shot in front of a roadhouse owned by Miller, Porter, it was said, had been having trouble with a younger boy The white man said he told Porter he should not bother the boy, and shot him "because I was not able to fight"

7-14-49

Meanwhile, Sheriff L D. Stancill, of Baldwin County, was holding "Bubber" Crooms, a white man, in the bludegon death of Sam Devereux, a 65-year-old Negro man. The sheriff said the aged man was found severely beaten and died without gaining consciousness.

Wanted: A Solution

High Incidence Of Negro Slayings Poses Problem

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World

Tues. 9-27-49

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the first in a series of articles by our Mr. Robert E. Johnson, who, over a period of several months, compiled statistical materials dealing with Negroes involved in the killing of other Negroes. The purpose of this series is, first, to present a factual study, pointing up the problem of Negro homicides; second, to make public some information gathered from the files of the Fulton County Solicitor General's Office, showing the disposition of both Negro and white prisoners received in Fulton County courts as homicide offenders over a five-year period; third, to appraise some solutions offered by Negro leaders, and, lastly, to stimulate the best thinking of the community in an effort to solve the problem. This is the first article in that series.)

BY ROBERT E. JOHNSON

Atlanta today is faced with the dramatic choice - allowing the high rate of Negro homicides to continue at an unchecked pace or providing a solution to stop the shameful, extravagant killing of Negroes by Negroes each year.

13c Ga.

(There is no question about the extensive problem of homicide among Atlanta Negroes. City homicide records show that over a five-year period —January 1944 through December 1948 —approximately 375 Negroes were killed by razor-slashing, knife-cutting, ice-pick stabbing, butcher-knife wielding, bludgeoned-beating, pistol-packing criminal offenders.

Prosperous Landowner Shot Near Pond

Memphis, Tenn. World

Fri. 9-9-49

Home Fired Into Last May After Men Ordered From Fishing Grounds

BAINBRIDGE, Ga—(SNS)—A local law enforcement official said here Monday that "definite progress" has been made in the investigation of the grotesque slaying of a Decatur county Negro by five white men Friday.

The official, Sheriff A. E. White, explained that a high-powered rifle bullet had been found, which is expected to help officials track down the murderers.

13c Ga.

He added:

"Georgia Bureau of Investigation officials are working with me on this case. Although it may take some time, we feel that we are making definite progress and will be able to find the guilty men."

The victim, 53-year-old Hollis Riles, prosperous owner of a 200-acre farm, was found Friday night propped up against a tree, where he had staggered after being riddled by gunfire.

The murder scene in the Parker district of Decatur county, situated 14 miles east of Bainbridge.

Another Negro, Jesse Gordon, saw the shooting. He told Sheriff White that Riles was shot down as he fled from a hail of shotgun and rifle fire after ordering the two white men to leave his fishing pond.

According to the report, Riles approached two unidentified white men who had a string of fish near his pond. He told the white men that they were trespassing and said they would either have to pay for the privilege of fishing or leave the premises.

A few minutes later, Riles was seen as he ran from a hail of shotgun fire that came from the woodland thickets.

Earlier, two white men were reportedly seen lounging under a tree near the pond. Both had guns.

After the shooting ceased, Gordon, who accompanied Riles to the woodland scene, said he watched two cars drive away. One of them, he said, had its license plate covered. He told the sheriff that he could not identify the assailants.

A coroner's jury, held the night that Riles was killed, said he met his death at the hands of "unknown parties."

No Clues Of Man's Death Established By Henry Sheriff

13c

Atlanta Daily World

Atlanta, Ga.

Tues. 2-1-49

McDONOUGH, Ga. — (SNS) — Henry County Sheriff E. Quillian Owen stated Monday that the unidentified body of a Negro which was fished out of Cotton Indian creek Saturday was believed to have been "killed somewhere else and brought to our county."

It was not immediately determined how long the man had been killed. However, his body was found floating in the creek by hunters Saturday. Police from nearby Stockbridge said the victim had been shot with a .38 caliber pistol.

Carroll Holds New Suspect In Slaying

Atlanta, Ga.

Constitution

13c

Ga

CARROLLTON—Carroll County Sheriff Denver Gaston revealed yesterday that a 27-year-old Negro identified as Clarence Henderson is being held in an undisclosed jail on suspicion of murder in connection with the Oct. 31, 1946, slaying of Carl (Buddy) Stevens, Jr., here.

Sat. 12-17-49

Sheriff Gaston said the murder weapon, a .38 Special Smith & Wesson, has been traced to Henderson. Ballistics tests conducted in Fulton County Crime Laboratory are said by officers to have definitely established the gun as the murder weapon.

It was found in an Atlanta pawn shop Nov. 21. A Negro named Lehman Allmond told officers he bought the gun from Henderson after the Stevens murder.

Allmond had sold the gun to a Negro named Elijah Cosper, who had pawned it in Atlanta. Investigation is continuing.

82nd Homicide Victim Found Slain In Southeast Atlanta

World Mem. 12-4-49

Homicide detectives last night were seeking the identity of three unidentified suspects in connection with the stab murder of a 35-year-old southeast Atlanta man whose body was found lying is the street near his home.

13c

Atlanta

Ga

Detectives listed the victim as Willie Philips, of 126 Fulton St., S. E. Records in the homicide file of the Atlanta Detective Bureau said Philips is the 82nd Negro murder victim since last January 1.

According to investigating detectves, the victim was attacked by three perpetrators, one of whom was believed to have inflicted a knife wound in the victim's chest and cut him over the right eye.

A witness told police that he was sitting in his car in front of the victim's residence when the incident occurred. He sad he had accompained the victim home and saw him being chased by three men. "They scuffled in the street," detectives quoted the witness, "and then left him (victim) and ran down the street."

A Grady physician pronounced the victim dead on the scene.

82nd Homicide Victim Found Slain In Southeast Atlanta

Memphis, Tenn. World

13c Ga

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Tues. 12-6-49

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1 Dead, 3 Hurt In Shooting at 'Juke Joint' Raid

HOMERVILLE—(AP)—One Negro was dead, another near death and a State Revenue Agent hospitalized in critical condition yesterday after a moonshine raid on a Negro "juke joint."

Constitution

Clinch County Sheriff W. C. Wooten identified the dead man as Elisha Riley, 30, a South Georgia turpentine woods-worker.

Mon. 12-19-49

He said the agent, Virgi Walker, had been taken to a hospital in Valdosta with "four bullets in him," one of which had perforated his intestines in four places.

Atlanta, Ga.

He quoted the hospital as saying he "was doing as well as could be expected."

He said Robert Small, 55, stepfather of Riley, was paralyzed from the hips down, and doctors "don't have much hope for him." Small and another Negro, Mose Proctor, who was less seriously wounded, are under medical care in Homerville.

13c

Wooten said several angles remain to be cleared up, but he had learned this much:

Ga.

Walker and another agent, H. C. Shiver, working out of Eastman, went to the "juke joint" on a tip that moonshine was being sold there. They bought some and arrested the operator of the joint, George Cooper. Cooper was ordered against the wall, but broke for the woods while the other Negroes were being searched. Shiver took after him.

Shiver said that he had chased Cooper less than 100 yards, when he heard a single shot—followed by a burst of gunfire. He rushed back, to find three Negroes on the floor and Walker tussling with a Negro woman with a knife.

Wooten identified her as Minnie Small, Riley's mother.

When he reached the scene of the shooting, the sheriff said he found a .38 calibre pistol lying near Small, while Riley's body lay about 10 feet distant.

13c 1949

Georgia

British Units Write White House For Intervention

Atlanta, Ga.

Daily World

10-9-49

NEW YORK, N. Y. — Women around the world are beginning to speak out and act in behalf of Mrs. Rosa Lee Ingram and her sons.

Letters and telegrams from women's organizations abroad have started to flow to the White House, according to Mrs. Maude White Katz secretary of the National Committee to Free the Ingram Family. Letters from women are also reaching Secretary-General Trygve Lie of the United Nations, urging intervention by that organization.

13c Ga

Messages to President Truman, according to copies received by Mrs. Katz, express solidarity of women abroad with Mrs. Ingram, who, with two of her twelve children, is now serving life sentence in a Georgia penitentiary after conviction by an all-white jury of the self-defense slaying of a white farmer. The messages demand freedom of the Ingrams and an end to persecution of the Negro people. They have begun to arrive following the presentation on September 21 of a brief in behalf of the Ingram family to the Human Rights Commission of the United Nations at Lake Success, New York.

"We, the British Committee of the Women's International Democratic Federation," said one letter to President Truman, "ask you, Mr. President, to intervene in this case and set Mrs. Ingram and her two sons free. All evidence points to the fact that she and her two sons acted purely in self-defense, and a life sentence for such an action is more than severe."

Daily World

Percy Belcher, general secretary of the Tobacco Workers Union of Great Britain, wrote President Truman: "We do not like to feel our American friends are so prejudiced against the colored peoples in their country that justice is misdirected .... we appeal to you as President of the United States to intervene in this matter and use your influence to obtain the freeing of this mother and her two sons in the name of humanity and justice."

Atlanta, Ga.

"BREACH OF RIGHTS"

The Democratic Women's Union of the Romanian Republic called the sentencing of the Ingrams a 'breach of elementary human rights.' On behalf of its 1,600,000 members the chairman wrote President Truman: "In our country, where the state guarantees equal rights and treatment to all citizens without any national or racial discrimination, and where the people work towards constructing a peaceful and prosperous life, women are indignant at seeing the persecutions to which the Negro citizens of the U. S. A. are subjected." The letter demanded that human rights inscribed in the United Nations Charter should be respected and the Ingrams immediately freed.

10-9-49

13c Ga

The Cyprus Progressive Women's Union told President Truman that "Your Excellency and the various Secretaries of the U. S. A. Government very often speak and write about the adherence of your country and your people to the principles of freedom and equality. The Ingram case is a good opportunity to prove it."

Other letters were sent to the White House by the Brazilian Federation of Women and the Union of Argentine Women. More letters are expected to come to President Truman as the news of the presentation of the Ingram Brief to the United Nations reaches women organizations throughout the world.

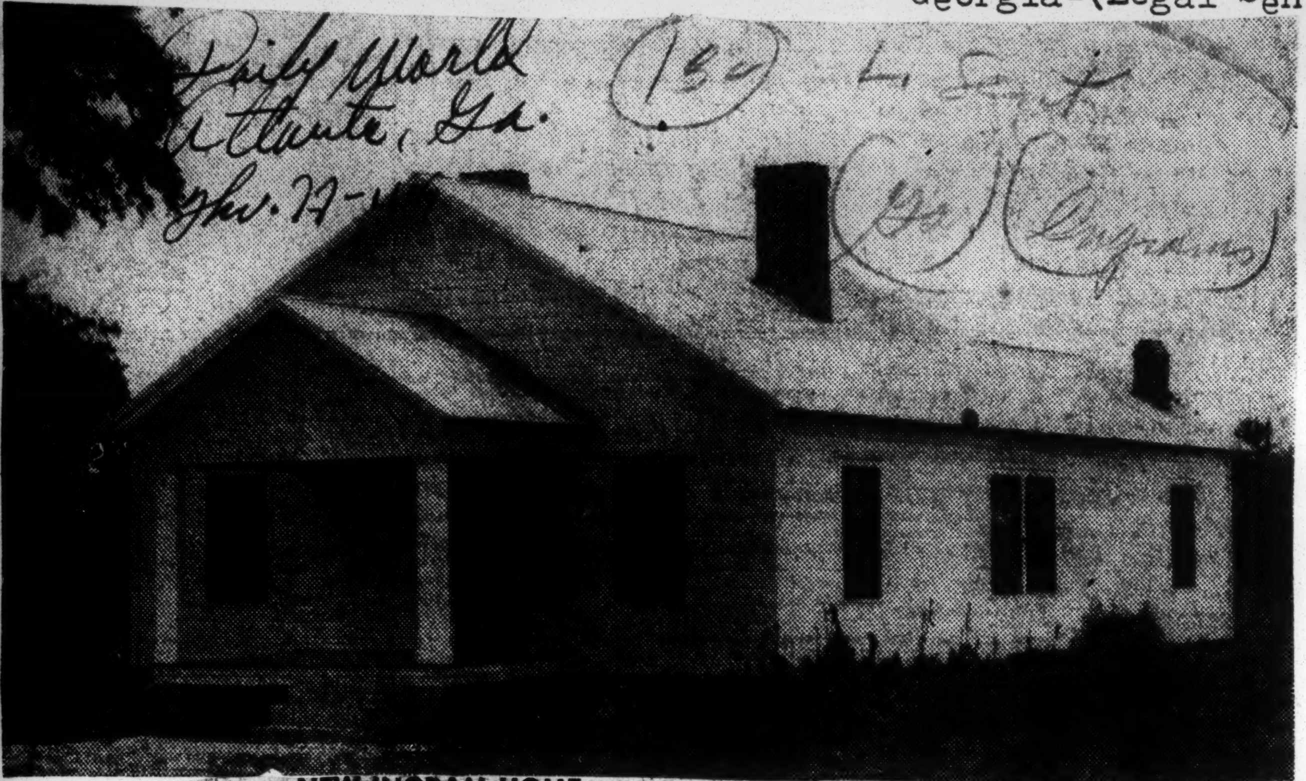
13c

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.
[illegible] 27-49

(13c)

L. Sent

(Ga.) (Ingram)



NEW INGRAM HOME

NEW HOME READY FOR MRS. INGRAM'S FAMILY

By MARION E. JACKSON

AMERICUS, Ga.—(SNS)— A brand new, completely furnished home which has much of the luxury and elegance of a metropolitan household has been built for the family of Mrs. Rosa Lee Ingram by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The newly-constructed, white-painted, five-room house is located about 14 miles from this city. It is the nation's tribute to Mrs. Ingram, who is under life sentence at Reidsville Prison in connection with the self-defense slaying of John Ethron Stratford, 66-year old white sharecropper of Schley County, Ga., on November 2, 1947.

7-7-49

(13c)

The NAACP built the house from thousands of dollars in contributions mailed by people from all over the United States. Col. Austin T. Walden, of Atlanta, and a hard-working NAACP branch here in Americus handled the spadework and detail which made this dream come true for the seven children of the tragic Georgia widow who fought a continuous struggle with an enraged tenant farmer one fury-impacted November evening.

SENTENCE COMMUTATION

As a result Mrs. Ingram and her two sons, Wallace and Sammie Lee, were sentenced to death after a bizarre one-day trial which aroused the indignation of the world. Judge W. N. Harper of Americus commuted the death sentence to life imprisonment.

7-7-49

The NAACP has used every legal technicality possible to free Mrs. Ingram and a "National Committee To Free Mrs. Ingram" recently petitioned President Harry S. Truman to intervene in the case. Even now the NAACP has not closed the legal part of the case.

The house constructed here is the best appointed farm house in this section of the country. It is a stunning contrast to the huts, hovels and farm houses nearby. Once inside you find a well-appointed living room with first rate furniture, including a radio. Comfortable and attractive chairs, coffee table, sofa and radio complete the picture.

(13c)

The bedroom, which will be used by Mrs. Geneva Rushin, who is guardian of Mrs. Ingram's children is well furnished.

Individual double-deck beds are provided for the children in two additional rooms and dressers, chest of drawers, and chifforobes. All bed furnishings are provided.

HOUSE WIRED, SCREENED

The kitchen has a new frigidaire, two extra-long breakfast tables with matching steel chairs, stove, and other utensils. The house is wired and screened.

7-7-49

The yard is cleared and beautiful flowers are growing thereby making a picturesque setting which is in marked contrast to the wilderness which surrounds the property.

Mrs. Ingram's children are Robert Lee, 3; Frankie Mae, 5; John L. 6; Walter Lee, 7; Marcellus, 11; and James Frank, 14. Mrs. Rushin has two children of her own Rosa Lee and Sammie Lee.

NOT IN HOUSE YET

Mrs. Rushin and the Ingram children haven't moved into the house as yet. They are still quartered in a dingy, window-less, run-down three-room house awaiting instruction for the NAACP Committee at Americus to do so.

7-7-49

Members of the NAACP Committee at Americus who were instrumental in securing the site for the home, clearing titles to the property and providing financial assistance to the family were J. B. Dorsey, W. R. Burleigh, Jerry Clark. Rev. R. L. Freeman, Dr. R. S. Douthard, Rev. S. M. Holton and Rev. Wm. N. Reeves.

Donations to aid in defending the Ingrams were sent to various newspapers and to the NAACP. The National Association For the Advancement of Colored People then assumed full responsibility for the defense of Mrs. Ingram as well as caring for her family. Few causes in recent years have brought such genuine and prompt response.

RUSHIN SELECTION

The house here was built at the site selected by Mrs. Rushin. Hundreds of travelers, visitors and interested persons have motored many miles out of their way to inquire about the children of the imprisoned woman. In years to come the home may become a shrine to the martyred woman.

7-7-49

The thousands who contributed to the legal defense of Mrs. Ingram and the subsequent building of a home for her children will have little to regret. Unquestionably they have gotten their dollar's worth for every cent that has gone into building and equipping this house.

The house should also ease some of the suffering and distress of imprisoned Mrs. Ingram, who is missing love and devotion of her children.

he Johnson Case

Dixie's Dual Justice Seen Being Tested

The Courier, Pittsburgh, Pa.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the first in a series of articles by Courier staff writer Dorothy Anderson. The series will be devoted to Leon Johnson, fugitive from a Georgia road-gang, and to related problems concerning extradition.

Sat. 7-30-49 By DOROTHY ANDERSON

Justice and democracy—Southern style—have been taking a licking in Pennsylvania courts during the last three ears as Pennsylvania jurists began to take official cogizance of the two-way standards in "the land below the order."

13R

Spearheaded by a nation-shockg decision handed down by Judge muel Weiss in January, 1948 ames Moreland v. State of Geora and Dye) jurists of the Keyone State have been punching rd against Southern standards.

Principal argument used against e lynch-states is the application the Fourth Amendment to the nstitution which they contend persedes state jurisdiction in ese cases. 7-30-49 Sat

TUDY IDEOLOGIES

Judge Weiss in a Courier exclue story (1948) on the Moreland se cited the duty of a sitting dge to inquire into the ideogical concepts of a given comunity in an effort to determine hether or not that community ould give (1) a fair trial and (2) rmal, fair and human punishent to a prisoner of a particular ce, creed or color.

Said Judge Weiss: "I cannot with clear conscience adhere to precence in the instant case and blind- ignore the overwhelming weight public opinion against 'Georgia stice' towards the Negro, or, I ould say, the lack of justice so ident and uncontradicted in the se of James Moreland, relator rein, although I am frank to adit I could not apply the same rdstick if the request for extradion came from the States of New ork, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, Virnia and many others."

Judge Weiss discussed the prace of Pennsylvania courts at that me in this wise: "Although our llegheny County courts have lopted a policy, not uniform but nsistent with the established actice of honoring extradition oceedings of a sister state, rerdless of the facts, a matter of stablished precedent' in this Comonwealth, I am ready to concede at the rule of adherence to precence, thought it ought not be abanoned, ought to be in some degree laxed.

"I think that when a rule, after had been duly tested by expeence, has been found to be inonsistent with the sense of justice with the social welfare, there ould be less hesitation in frank vowal and full abandonment."

OTES MOB VIOLENCE

Judge Weiss hit the State of eorgia another body blow with iese words: "The harsh policy of nob violence and speedy injustice' applied to the Negro in a few outhern States' and the constiutional protection must be invoked safeguard his liberty; freedom nd equality guaranteed to him, yet, denied with recurring frequency.

"No Court can look blindly to the realities of intolerance, race discrimination and bigotry as they actually exist in some jurisdictions. There is a tendency at times by many jurists in varying locals who prefer a 'strong decision.' By this they meant a decision that worked out some harsh result by the undeviating application of the method of strict logic to the development of a precedent or rule.

DENIED CONSTITUTIONAL AIDS

"This Court has always with humble pride believed himself to be no more than a human being—I have applied the simple principle that all men, regardless of race, creed or color are 'equal under the law' and that includes Moreland, the petitioner . . .

"This Court is fully satisfied and recognizes that Moreland, a Negro, was denied his constitutional guarantees in the State of Georgia and this Court will not permit the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to join the State of Georgia in the further perpetration of injustice against a helpless Negro, who in the opinion of this Court will meet certain death if returned to Georgia—only because he is a Negro, and we propose to apply the simple maxism, 'equal justice under the law' by granting the prayer of his petition. Sat. 7-30-49

James Moreland, as is Leon Johnson, whose case is still pending, was a fugitive from the road-gangs of the State of Georgia. He testified at one of the habeas corpus proceedings brought by Johnson's attorneys. Johnson, likewise, claims that he will be killed by guards or other state officials if he is returned to the jurisdiction of that state.

"The longer I stay away from Georgia and the more fight I put up, and the more I tell up here about the way Negroes are treated down there, the worse it will be for me when and if I am sent back down there," Johnson told his attorneys and the Court.

Leon Johnson escaped from a Georgia road-gang in 1946. His case has been heard in various Pennsylvania courts since that time.

GEORGIA APPEALS

Recently the Third Circuit Court of Appeals granted him his freedom in an opinion closely identified with the opinion of Judge Weiss in the Moreland case.

The State of Georgia has filed a motion to intervene and to reargue his case. Said motion is now pending.

Negro In Georgia Tells Of Seeing Michigan Killing

Birmingham, Ala. News

13 x Ga. (Mich)

ATLANTA, Sept. 1—(AP)—Police announced today a Negro had admitted witnessing the slaying of Mrs. Lydia Thompson, wife of a wealthy auto dealer, near Pontiac, Mich. Thurs. 9-1-49

Capt. Delmar Jones, of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, said Johnny Stark Vanderbilt, 37, told officers verbally he was with two white men who murdered her. He denied taking part in the 1945 slaying.

"Vanderbilt gave us a perfect description of Mrs. Thompson," said Police Lt. B. G. Ragsdale, of the GBI's lie detector division.

"He told us he was driving the car for the two white men. They picked Mrs. Thompson up at a parking lot about 15 miles from where her body later was found in a swamp."

Jones and Ragsdale said the Negro named the two white men, but they declined to make the names public at this time. The officers said a check with Michigan police showed Mrs. Thompson's car was found at a parking lot after the murder investigation started in 1945.

They declined to disclose details of the slaying story, but said Vanderbilt told them one of the white men recently had been in Georgia with him. The Negro and this white man were charged with operating a swindle in which Negro laborers were signed up for $10 each in a non-existent union.

* * *

VANDERBILT WAS arrested on this minor charge and then started talking, officers said. The white man got away.

Lt. Howard Siler, of the Michigan State Police, was en route here by plane today. With the Georgia officers he will go to Jefferson, Ga., where Vanderbilt is held, to question him.

Jones and Ragsdale said Vanderbilt at first only said he was present in Pontiac when a murder occurred. Later, when taking lie detector tests, they said he readily admitted he knew it was Mrs. Thompson who was slain. Vanderbilt said an attendant at the parking lot saw the white men and himself pick up Mrs. Thompson there.

"We don't know if Vanderbilt is on the level about the murder or if he is merely trying to get out of Georgia," Capt. Jones said. "His description of what happened and the area where it happened is close to actuality."

Capt. Jones said lie detector tests indicated the Negro was telling the truth.

In Detroit, Louis V. Thompson, who was the husband of the slain woman, said the name of the prisoner held in Georgia means "nothing to me."

He added that he hoped the new clues divulged by Vanderbilt "could be the solution and keep this thing from hanging over our heads."

Thompson, a Detroit auto dealer, and his former secretary, Helen Budnik, were married shortly after the slaying. Subsequently both Thompson and the secretary were indicted on charges of murder and murder conspiracy but the charges were dismissed two years ago.

Accuses Alabama—

Fugitive Tells Shocking Story, Wins Freedom

Birmingham, Ala. News

CHICAGO, Aug. 12 —(AP)— A Negro fugitive from an Alabama prison farm is free today after telling a federal court a story of alleged injustices and cruelties suffered at the hands of Alabama authorities.

He is Andrew Williams, 28, who fled from a prison farm six years ago after serving two years on conviction of stealing a watch.

Federal Judge Michael L. Igoe ordered Williams set free, terming his story of conditions in Alabama prisons "most shocking." Walter McCoy, assistant state's attorney, said he had no evidence to refute Williams' story.

13 x

WILLIAMS, WHO HAD been arrested in Chicago for extradition to Alabama to complete his sentence, told the court:

He was convicted in 1941 of robbing Will Magbe of a watch in Montgomery, and sentenced to 15 years. Magbe at first refused to identify him as the robber but did so after police threatened to "make it unpleasant" unless he agreed to prosecution. Fri. 8-12-49

When Williams was arrsted, detectives beat him for three hours and compelled him to sign a confession or be thrown to his death from a window. The detectives told him they would cover up the killing by reporting he tried to escape.

Williams repudiated his confession at the trial. After his conviction a detective beat him.

He was removed to Kilby Prison and placed in a totally dark cell about four by five feet in floor space. He was beaten again and given only bread and water for several days. He lost 25 pounds.

NEXT HE WAS MOVED to the Atmore prison farm where he was beaten by guards who asked "why did you lie at your trial?" His thumb was broken and became deformed when he was refused medical attention.

Fellow prisoners warned him not to go for water if sent while working in the prison farm fields.

"They just want to kill you," he was told. When he refused to go to the well, he was beaten again.

Upon his escape Williams came to Chicago where he obtained steady work. He is married.

Accompanying his petition was an affidavit by Mrs. Dannie Coleman of Detroit, at whose home Williams lived while in Montgomery. She said Magbe told her Williams was present when another man drew a pistol but Williams refused to help in the robbery until the gunman menaced him.

Mrs. Coleman said Magbe told her he did not wish to prosecute Williams but detectives forced him.

* * *

WILLIAMS' STORY BROUGHT sharp denials from police and prison officials in Montgomery. City Detective Capt. Lewis Miller said there was no record of the Negro here and Kilby Prison records showed the Negro was sentenced in Jefferson County instead of Montgomery.

"I never even heard of him," Miller commented. "He was never sent up from here."

State Prison Director Frank Boswell said he didn't believe a word of the escaped prisoner's story, although Boswell wasn't connected with the Prison Department at that time.

The director nevertheless said there were two obvious discrepancies in Williams story: That he was held in a four-by-five cell at Kilby and that he was beaten for refusing to go to the well at Atmore.

13c 1949

Illinois

Chicago Business Partner Murdered

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World

13c Ill.

June 10-2-49

CHICAGO— (ANP)— Winston Howard, 36, wealthy hotel operator and nephew of Mississippi Republican leader Perry Howard, was shot to death here early Friday morning by Charles Cole, close business associate of the slain man.

Cole, who owned a part interest in the Pershing hotel on Chicago's Southside, fired six shots at Howard in the crowded Pershing lounge Customers went into a panic, as a juke box blared away, and the slain man slumped to the floor.

Claiming self-defense, Cole told police, Howard entered the lounge, cursed and charged him with cheating him out of his money. Witnesses said they heard Howard tell Cole, "You'd better quit pushing me around or I'll kill you."

Cole told the officers, "I thought he meant business, because Howard reached in his pocket. I figured it was either him or me, and I beat him to the draw."

The two men had been partners in the operation of the popular hotel and nitery since it was taken over by Negroes in 1946. Cole is believed to have conceived the idea of converting the hotel and was joined by Howard and Louis (Buddy) Hutchins in the purchase.

Cole was made general manager. Hutchens, operator of a policy wheel in Gary, Ind., was murdered over a year ago by unidentified white gangsters as he left his establishment, leaving his interests to his wife.

It is believed that both Howard and Cole had bid for the stock from Mrs. Hutchens, with Howard finally taking possession with a $25,000 purchase. The Hutchens' stock plus Howard's 40 percent gave him 80 percent controlling interest in the hotel. Cole reportedly became despondent, and a series of heated arguments followed.

Cole was relieved of his duties as general manager and a "Howard man" was put in his office. The gulf between the two men widened.

The end of a partnership ended with the Friday morning killing.

Both Cole and Howard were generally recognized as "big names" in the South Side's thriving policy business. Howard's father, Dr. Elmer Howard, was in Rochester Minn., where Elk leader Finley J. Wilson is undergoing treatment. He rushed home Friday morning.

13c 1949

Illinois

2 Teen-Agers Indicted in Murder of Policeman

Afro-American Jnl. 10-1-49
Baltimore, Md.

Victim Shot 9 Times With Automatic Pistol; Boys Charge He Used Insulting Epithet

13c Sex

CHICAGO (NNPA)—Two teen-aged youths are charged with the murder early Tuesday, Sept. 20, of Policeman David F. Keating (white) of the Stockyard Station. They are Roosevelt Baccus, 15, and Sydney Johnson, 17.

Johnson and Baccus shot Keating when he questioned them about a long package they were carrying. It was a shotgun, as he suspected, but before he could inspect it, Johnson shot him seven times with a .32 caliber pistol.

After eluding police for 10 hours, the duo surrendered to Lester Davison, a policeman and Illinois National Guard captain, under whom both had served in the guard. Both weapons were received.

Say Epithet Was Used

The first lead police got as to the identity of the teen-age slayers came from Baccus's girlfriend. More than 100 policemen were tracking the pair, when they surrendered to Davidson at his home at 4038 Dearborn St.

The 15-year-old boy first said he shot Keating. Later, however, Johnson told police officers he had shot the officer and that the two agreed for Baccus to plead guilty since he was the younger—too young to face the electric chair.

The boys said Keating was shot after he asked: "What are you 'n - - - - s' doing out this time of morning?"

Both boys had been considered problems and had been involved in minor incidents.

INDICT 4 GIRLS IN GRUDGE MURDER OF RIVAL

Memphis, Tenn

CHICAGO—(ANP)—Four teenage girls were indicted by the grand jury here last week for the childish grudge slaying of a DuSable high school senior girl. The four, Edward Howard, 18, and her sister, Wilma, 14; and Evelyn and Helen Rivers, 19 and 17, respectively, are charged with slaying Lavon Cain, 16.

13c Sex

The slaying was the climax of a high school grudge between the deceased and the Howard sisters. Police say the

"The school is filled with opposing cliques that are constantly picking at each other," she said. "Fights at the school are started by members of one clique calling members of the other group vulgar names. If you ignored them they would bump into you. If you tried to defend yourself, they would gang you."

Jones 11-29-49

Two years ago, a girl was hospitalized after she had

MANY CLIQUES

sisters had plotted the preceding day to harm the Cain girl because she had shoved one of them. Lavon was shot in the back with a .38 calibre revolver near DuSable a week ago. Her funeral services were held Saturday at Carter Temple CME church.

mixed

According to Edwina, the grudge-shooting stemmed from the existence of cliques in the school which are constantly picking on each other.

been beaten by a gang at the school. Although the incident was reported to juvenile authorities, nothing was done to break up the gangs.

The Rivers girls are charged with aiding and abetting the Howard sisters in their plot to shoot Lavon. They were said to have urged the two youthful slayers to do the deed. Both sisters had guns, but it was the revolver fired by Edwina that killed Lavon.

Blind Slayer's Death Ordered

Montgomery Advertiser

13c

A plea for mercy from prison officials who didn't want to execute him, failed yesterday to save a blind Negro from the electric chair.

Montgomery Ala.

Gov. James E. Folsom ordered 42-year-old Buster Snead put to death at Kilby Prison.

The Negro was to have died this morning shortly after midnight.

Fri. 3-25-49

The governor merely announced that he wouldn't interfere with the trial court's sentence.

Snead, blind for seven years, was convicted of the ax killing of Ellen Mason, a Negro woman. She was slain while asleep in her home in Bibb County Jan. 14, 1947.

Walking into Centerville, the county seat, Snead gave himself up shortly afterwards. In a confession introduced at his trial, he said he hacked the woman to death because she refused to repay a year-old $20 loan. He also wounded Ellen Mason's 13-year-old daughter who was in bed with her.

State Prison Director Frank Boswell, speaking for Kilby Prison officials, asked the governor at a clemency hearing yesterday to commute the Negro's sentence to life imprisonment.

He said prison authorities were "touched" by Snead's plight and "dread the job ahead of them."

Fri 3-25-49

Kilby Warden George Garner said no blind man has ever been electrocuted in Alabama that he knows of.

Defense Attorney J. Fred Wood told Folsom putting the Negro to death would "be just like electrocuting a child." He presented an affidavit from a doctor saying Snead was treated for syphilis of the nervous system years ago and the disease might have affected his mind.

The state objected, however, pointing out that the Negro had a mental examination at Mount Vernon State Hospital before he was tried and experts judged him sane.

Snead's only comment was a simple appeal for mercy.

DEATH SENTENCE GIVEN IN BOY'S SEX-SLAYING

Commercial Appeal

Alabama Negro ExConvict Convicted Of Murder

Thur 3-17-49

Memphis Tenn.

WETUMPKA, Ala., March 16.—(AP)—J. C. Winters, 20, a negro ex-convict, was sentenced to death late Wednesday after a Circuit Court jury convicted him of the sex-slaying of a 15-year-old white boy.

The jury deliberated only 15 minutes before rendering its verdict. Circuit Judge Oakley Melton pronounced the sentence.

Winters was charged with killing Clyde Peak, son of a Wetumpka contractor, after forcing him to submit to a sex offense early last month.

The defense presented no evidence. Winters' court-appointed lawyers based their arguments on an appeal for mercy.

Heavily armed state highway patrolmen and sheriff's deputies stood around the courtroom waiting to escort the negro back to Kilby Prison.

Spectators were quiet, almost sullen, as they sat through the recital of the killing.

Sheriff Lester Holley testified that Winters admitted on three separate occasions knocking the boy down with his own air rifle and tossing the body into the Coosa River.

Winters told him, Holley said, that he approached the boy who was bird-hunting near a small wooded area by the river. The sheriff quoted him as saying he choked young Peak with a belt until he submitted.

Thur 3-17-49

Afterwards, Holley continued, Winters said the boy tried to run away. The negro admitted then, the sheriff said, that he knocked young Peak down three times and that he "acted like he was asleep" after the last blow.

Earlier Assistant State Toxicologist W. L. Sowell of Auburn said an autopsy showed the boy died from drowning and not from injuries. He said the head blows were severe enough to have knocked Peak unconscious, however.

Negro Sings As He Dies In Kilby Chair

Birmingham News

MONTGOMERY, Ala., March 18 (AP)—A 26-year-old Negro was put to death at Kilby Prison early today after singing a spiritual—"Can't Hear Nobody Pray"—while strapped to the electric chair.

Birmingham, Ala.

Perry Lee Haygood was executed for the fatal shooting of a white man, W. J. Trotter, in Birmingham in February last year. He protested his innocence to the end.

Several Negro ministers joined Haygood in singing the spiritual as he sat in the chair.

The current was turned on at 12:04 a.m. at 12:14 Haygood was dead.

Fri. 3-18-49

Trotter's widow pleaded with Gov. Folsom yesterday not to commute Haygood's death sentence.

Folsom Refuses To Save Slayer

Montgomery Advertiser

Fri. 3-18-49

Answering the plea of a slain man's grieving widow, Gov. James E. Folsom refused late yesterday to save the life of a condemned Negro killer.

Montgomery, Ala.

The governor ordered 26-year-old Perry Lee Haygood put to death in Kilby Prison's electric chair early today for the fatal shooting of a white storekeeper. W. J. Trotter, in Birmingham.

He signed the death warrant after hearing Trotter's widow demand the Negro's life. Testifying at a clemency hearing in the governor's office, Mrs. Trotter sobbed, "If this man isn't executed, then why not do away with the electric chair altogether."

Later, she scolded a young university law student who argued in the Negro's behalf. She told the student, Oscar Newton of Birmingham, his appeal was a "fine piece of soapbox oratory."

Newton told the governor he became interested in Haygood's case because he didn't think he should be executed. He said the Negro was a "changed man" after 13 months at Kilby Prison and that he believed the convicted slayer could live a different life if Folsom spared him.

Haygood's lawyer, Josh Mullins, argued the Negro was innocent and that evidence showed he wasn't in Trotter's store at the time of the killing. A codefendant, Jack Sims, testified, however, that Haygood shot the man in the head. The state contended Trotter was killed during a holdup. Sims was sentenced to life imprisonment for his part.

Negro Saved By Folsom Slated To Die March 4 For Slaying At Prison

Montgomery Advertiser

Montgomery Ala.

Twenty-two months ago Gov. Folsom saved a young Negro, Phillip Cobb, from the electric chair.

Yesterday the State Supreme Court issued a new death decree against Cobb—for a killing he committed in prison after the governor saved his life.

Sat-1-14-49

The Montgomery Negro, convicted of slaying his wife, was the first condemned man to face Folsom after the newly elected governor took office. Folsom reprieved him once, then on March 27, 1947 commuted his sentence to life imprisonment.

Fourteen months later, Cobb was convicted of killing Jesse Porter, his prison cellmate, and given the death penalty for the second time. The Supreme Court upheld the verdict yesterday and fixed the date of execution at March 4.

Justice J. Ed Livingston, writing the court's opinion, said state evidence tended to show a "perverted relationship" existed between Cobb and Porter and the latter was killed when he threatened to end it.

The defendant, testifying in his own behalf, denied any such relationship went on and claimed self-defense. He said he refused to lend Porter money to buy a "zizzie-will" (narcotics) and that Porter threatened to kill him.

Elmore Negro Is Given Death For Killing Boy

Montgomery Advertiser

Thur. 3-17-49

Heavily Armed Patrol Guards Ex-Convict; Jury Out 15 Minutes

Montgomery Ala.

WETUMPKA, ALA., March 16.—(AP)—J. C. Winters, 20, a Negro ex-convict, late today was sentenced to death after a circuit court jury found him guilty of the sex-slaying of a 15-year-old white boy.

The jury deliberated only 15 minutes before rendering its verdict. Circuit Judge Oakley Melton quickly pronounced the sentence.

Winters was charged with killing Clyde Peak, son of a Wetumpka contractor, after forcing him to submit to a sex offense early last month.

Appeals For Mercy

The defense presented no evidence. Winters' court-appointed lawyers based their arguments on an appeal for mercy.

Heavily armed state highway patrolmen and sheriff's deputies stood around the courtroom waiting to escort the prisoner back to Kilby Prison.

Spectators were quiet, almost sullen, as they sat through the recital of the brutal killing.

Sheriff Lester Holly testified that Winters admitted on three separate occasions knocking the boy down with his own air rifle and tossing his body into the Coosa River.

Thur 3-17-49

Winters told him, he said, that he approached the boy who was bird-hunting near a small wooded area by the river. He quoted him as saying young Peak didn't want to submit so he choked him with a belt until he did after making him remove his clothes.

Afterwards, Holley continued, Winters said the boy put on his pants and tried to run away. The Negro admitted then, he said, that he knocked young Peak down three times and that he "acted like he was asleep" after the last blow.

Points Out Spot

The sheriff said Winters pointed out the spot on two occasions where he attacked the boy, then beat him into unconsciousness so he "wouldn't tell."

Holley said the Negro made his first confession when he was arrested shortly after the boy's body was found in the river Feb. 14. He said he made another when he was taken to Kilby Prison for safe-keeping and again on March 3.

Winters was taken from Kilby to point out the crime scene again when he made his last confession, the sheriff said.

Earlier Assistant State Toxicologist W. L. Sowell of Auburn said an autopsy showed the boy died from drowning and not from injuries. He said the head blows were severe enough to have knocked Peak unconscious.

Injuries Described

Dr. J .E. Dunn, a Wetumpka physician, described injuries inflicted on the boy. He said there was a deep gash on his head, bruises about his body and a rectal injury.

A line of five highway patrolmen sat between the Negro and the crowd during the trial. Winters was seated at a table with his two lawyers.

Circuit Judge Oakley Melton warned the several hundred spectators that he would tolerate no demonstrations. He ordered the aisles and entrances to the room cleared.

Thur 3-17-49

A detail of 18 highway patrolmen was sent here to keep order. Sheriff Holley also had four of his deputies on hand in case they were needed.

The trial was the second in two days in which highway patrolmen were called out to guard against possible violence during a court session.

Yesterday two dozen were sent to Luverne where a Negro, 28-year-old Jim Arrington, was given a death sentence for raping a white woman. Spectators shouted approval as the jury handed down its verdict of guilty there

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Governor Folsom Acts Upon Plea of Decatur Residents

Pittsburgh Courier

Pittsburgh (Pa.) Courier

MONTGOMERY—A long distance telephone call last Thursday from Gov. James E. Folsom saved the life of 32-year-old Isaac Logan, scheduled to die in the Kilby Prison electric chair ten hours later for the alleged slaying of a Lawrence County white man.

Pittsburg

The Governor called his office from Birmingham to commute Logan's sentence to life imprisonment. The condemned man would have been electrocuted shortly after midnight Thursday or early Friday morning.

The Governor had gone to Birmingham to participate in the dedication of a new health center.

TRIAL "MISCARRIAGE"

Logan was convicted in a trial

regarded as a serious miscarriage of justice for the alleged killing of O'Neal Bayne, a white man, in Lawrence county.

The prisoner appeared before Governor Folsom Wednesday at a clemency hearing here and begged the State's chief executive to save him from the electric chair. He denied any connection with Bayne's death and told the Governor he was asleep in his home when the killing occurred.

H. J. Banks, a leading citizen of Decatur, told Governor Folson at the hearing that "all we colored people in Alabama ask is a fair deal. We don't think this boy (Logan) had a fair trial."

Evidence was introduced to show that Logan was arrested by officers while he was asleep in bed at his home. Sat-3-5-49

Solomon was found dead in the store, a pistol wound in his back, and a score of ice pick stabs about his head and chest. Green was arrested the same day.

According to police records, he led officers to the Pratt City park section to show where he hid money he took from the store.

The court noted that Green was discharged from the Army three years ago for lack of adaptability to the military service. ice.

Northington General Hospital psychiatrists issued findings of "inadequacy, immaturity, irresponsibility, eccentric, and socially incompatible with sexual deviation" in his case.

Three Negroes To Die Aug. 12 For Slayings

The Advertiser

Montgomery Ala.

Elmore Man Convicted For Killing Youth Near Wetumpka

The State Supreme Court yesterday affirmed death sentences against three Negro men and ordered their execution Friday, Aug. 12, at Kilby Prison.

Sentenced to the electric chair were: Lonnie James Ball, 27, of Calhoun County; Nehemiah Green, 25, of Jefferson County; and J. C. Winters, 20, of Elmore County. All had been convicted of murdering white persons.

Winters drew the death penalty three months ago after a circuit jury found him guilty of the sex-slaying of 15-year-old Clyde Peak, son of a Wetumpka contractor. Fri, 7-1-49

Evidence showed the Negro ex-convict choked him until he submitted to a sex offense, then clubbed young Peak to death with his own air rifle for fear he would "tell." The incident occurred near Wetumpka.

Ball was convicted of killing Police Chief Robert E. Sparks last Summer in front of a store in Oxford. He grabbed a pistol from another policeman, Doc Billingsley. Billingsley was wounded in the affray.

The defendant's sole defense was that he was drunk and did not know what he was doing. He said he had no recollection of events surrounding the tragedy.

Nehemiah Green, the third condemned man, confessed to the robbery-slaying of Thomas C. Solomon, manager of a Birmingham grocery store in December, 1947. Fri. 7-1-49

Pair Of Negro Murderers Die In Kilby Prison Electric Chair

Birmingham, Ala. News

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Aug. 12—Two Negro murderers died early today in Kilby Prison's electric chair.

J. C. Winters, 20, of Elmore County, paid with his life for the sex slaying of Clyde Peak, Jr.

Nehemiah Green, 25, of Birmingham, was put to death for the murder of T. C. Solomon, a Birmingham grocer, on Dec. 13, 1947.

Clyde Peak, Sr., was among those who saw his son's slayer bound into the electric chair.

Fri. 8-12-49

* * *

WINTERS' LAST WORDS were, "I hope I meet that boy in heaven."

He was strapped into the chair at 12:10 a.m. and pronounced dead nine minutes later.

Green declined to make a last-minute statement, but he shook hands with other condemned prisoners before going to the chair.

Straps bound him to the chair at 12:30 a.m., and he was pronounced dead six minutes later.

Green practically talked himself into the chair at a clemency hearing before Gov. James E. Folsom Wednesday. His discerning questions tore up insanity arguments of his attorneys.

They tried desperately to convince the governor Green was insane when he shot Solomon once and then stabbed him 19 times.

WHEN GREEN FINISHED popping questions, and answering some himself, the governor said, "The sentence of the court will be carried out. This man may have been crazy at one time, but he is sane today."

A clemency hearing was not held for Winters. He was allowed to talk with Gov. Folsom for two minutes, however.

Winters was given the death sentence barely four months ago after a circuit jury convicted him of the slaying of young Peak, 15-year-old son of a Wetumpka contractor.

Four Indicted On Civil Rights Charges Here

Advertiser

2 Ex-Policemen Named; Zimmerman And Others Face Mail Fraud Count

By FOSTER HALEY

Two former Montgomery policemen, a former Florala police chief, and a Tallassee policeman today are under indictment for civil rights violations. The charges concern 10 Negroes and one white man.

Two Negroes served on the 18-man federal grand jury that returned indictments against the four white law enforcement officers.

Sun. 9-17-49

Also facing charges today are three members of a Montgomery business firm, accused of mail fraud. One is an ex-GI, the others are women.

The two former Montgomery policemen accused were William D. Durden and Winkler Campbell. They were charged with beating up a white man, Paul A. Patrick, of Montgomery, "with their hands, fists, a stick, blackjack and bricks."

Montgomery, Ala.

Both Removed

The act is alleged to have occurred Dec. 21, 1948. Both police officers were removed from the force shortly thereafter.

Thomas Israel Gantt, one-time police chief at Florala, was accused of unlawfully seizing and transporting three Negroes, holding a fourth in peonage, and beating five others with a rubber hose or similar instrument. He was named in three separate indictments.

Indicted with Gantt for taking three Negroes from Fort Walton, Fla., to Florala, Ala., were Pat Grimes and Harold Kelly, both of Florala. They were charged with "unlawfully" transporting Robert Brannon, Jr., Corine Hammonds and George Earl Mount in April, 1948.

The Tallassee policeman, Cecil Orris Trash, was charged with shooting Amos Starr to death Oct. 25, 1947, while trying to arrest him for committing a misdemeanor.

Mail Fraud Charge

Indicted for mail fraud were Harold F. (Hal) Zimmerman, his wife, Mrs. Cecelia Sacks Zimmerman, and his wife's mother, Mrs. Stella B. Stacks. As owners and operators of the American Merchandising Company, 9 Madison Avenue, all three were charged with devising . . . "a scheme . . . to defraud" and obtain "money and property by . . . false and fraudulent pretenses."

Advertiser

All of those indicted were arrested by U. S. deputy marshals yesterday morning; all have made bond.

Sat. 9-17-49

The two Negroes serving on the federal grand jury were listed as Kelley Spencer, Prattville, and Pluie M. Blair, Montgomery.

Montgomery, Ala.

In the indictment against Gantt, Grimes and Kelley, the grand jury charged that they took Corine Hammonds away and held her for the purpose of "compeliing" her to pay an alleged debt due Kelley.

It was further charged that Brannon and Mount were "unlawfully" taken to Florala to work for Gantt.

13c

Beating Charged

In a separate indictment, it was charged that Gantt, in August, 1947, "wilfully and unlawfully" beat five persons about the head and body with a rubber hose or similar instrument to force them to confess to a criminal offense.

They were listed as Robert Lee DeVaughn, Johnnie Fuller, James W. Fuller, O'Neal Vickers, and James Louis Williams.

Gantt also was accused of holding Willie Billups, another Negro, in peonage, and "compelling" him to work for two months against his will. This was in payment of a debt Gantt claimed Billups owed him, the indictment said. The condition of peonage allegedly existed from the latter part of June to Sept. 3, 1948.

Flogging Hearing Set Today In Coosa

~~Montgomery~~

ROCKFORD, ALA., July 29—(AP)—A habeas corpus hearing for two men arrested in connection with a flogging at nearby Goodwater will be held here Saturday.

~~Advertiser~~

The men, Bobby Buckner and Buck Burkhalter, both of Alexander City, were arrested July 20 shortly after two men reported they had been taken to a wooded section and whipped.

Sat. 7-30-49

The whipping victims were S. G. Bailey, 25, a white man, and S. J. Thomas, a Negro. Thomas is under treatment at the Montgomery Veterans Hospital for a ruptured kidney and other injuries. Bailey did not require medical treatment.

Advertiser

13c

Coosa County Probate Judge Winston Stewart will preside over the hearing.

Anderson Case Goes To Jury

Advertiser

Sun. 11-6-49

GREENVILLE, ALA., Nov. 5—(AP)—The fate of a 24-year-old Negro charged with killing of an elderly white man in a fight rested today with an all-white Circuit Court jury.

13c

James Anderson, of Conecuh County, is accused of helping inflict the injury which brought about the death of Sam Stacy at a nearby cotton gin.

The case went to the jury in mid-afternoon.

Montgomery, Ala.

Donnie Anderson, 46, father of the defendant and jointly charged with the killing, was the last defense witness.

Under questioning of Defense Counsel Roderick Beddow, Birmingham, Anderson described how the fight started. He said Stacy and his brother, Herman, provoked it.

Earlier Herman Stacy testified the two Negroes taunted them as they passed in a truck on the way to the gin.

"When we arrived at the gin," he said, "Donnie came over and said: 'I put you behind.'

White Jury Frees Negro In Death

News

GREENVILLE, Ala., Nov. 7—(AP)—A young Negro, James Anderson, 24, has been acquitted of killing a white man during a fight by an all-white jury here.

Mon. 11-7-49

Anderson was charged with killing Sam Stacy during a fight which also involved Stacy's brother, Herman, and Anderson's father, Donnie. The 46-year-old Donnie is also under indictment for murder and is scheduled to be tried later.

13c

Birmingham, Ala.

The state claimed blows during the fight caused Stacy's death. Defense Council Roderick Beddow, of Birmingham, attempted to prove Stacy died of a heart attack instead of from injuries suffered during the fight.

Heart Trouble To Be Used As Evidence

GREENVILLE, Ala. — Defense Attorneys for James Anderson, charged with murdering Sam Stacey, said Wednesday in Greenville that they will introduce evidence showing that Stacey died of heart failure after a fight.

13 c

The Attorneys, Calvin Poole and Roderick Bedow, of Birmingham, Ala., deny the prosecutuion's allegation that Stacey died of a punctured lung after being hit by a stone and a stick during the fight in which the victim, his brother Herman, the defendant and the defendant's father, Donnie, were involved.

Thurs. 11-3-49 Ala.

Donnie Anderson was also indicted by the Butler county grand jury on a charge of first degree murder with counts of second degree murder as well as first degree and second degree manslaughter.

Butler Jury Selection Takes Day At Negro's Murder Trial

Advertiser

Thurs. 11-3-49

GREENVILLE, ALA., Nov. 2—The entire first day of a Butler Negro's murder trial that opened today in circuit court, was taken in striking a jury.

James Anderson, the defendant, is charged with first degree murder in the death of Sam Stacy, a white farmer. Donnie Anderson, James' father is also charged with the same crime but will be tried at a later date.

The Negroes are being defended by Roderick Beddow, top-flight Birmingham criminal lawyer, and Calvin Poole, a local attorney.

Montgomery Ala.

Jurors selected are Felix Tindall, Clifford L. Burkhalter, Noel F. Brown, Ray Branum, Arthur L. Giddens, Ernest C. Russell, Ennis Rigsby, Harvey Wood, Irby L. Parker, Felix R. Holladay, Webb Johnson and Bernard Slaughter. Most of them are farmers and local business people.

A packed courtroom watched the proceedings.

13 c

The defense will attempt to prove that Stacy died of a heart attack. The state claims death resulted from injuries received in a scuffle with the Negroes.

$50,000 Suit Is Filed In Shooting Of Negro

Advertiser

Sat. 11-5-49

ANNISTON, ALA., Nov. 4—(AP)—A $50,000 suit based on the fatal shooting of a Negro man last July 2 was filed today against Calhoun County Sheriff A. A. Pate and members of his staff.

The suit was filed in circuit court here in the name of Cecile N. Wilson, acting as administrator of the estate of John H. Wilson, the slain man.

Defendants names are Sheriff Pate, Cecil Miller, H. L. Randall, William Phillips and John W. Bennett.

Montgomery Ala.

The complaint charges the defendants "wrongfully" and "negligently" shot Wilson. A verdict of justifiable homicide was returned by Coroner Bowid Jones after the shooting last summer.

Conecuh Negro Denies Causing Farmer's Death

Advertiser

Sat. 11-5-49

Greenville Doctor Refutes Testimony By Toxicologist

Montgomery Ala.

By GERALD J. McALLISTER
Advertiser State Editor.

GREENVILLE, ALA., Nov. 4—James Anderson, Conecuh Negro accused of killing Sam Stacy, a white man, testified today that he did not strike Stacy during the fatal fight at a Butler cotton gin.

13 c

The state earlier rested its case against Anderson. Defense Counsel Roderick Beddow put 14 witnesses on the stand, including nine character witnesses.

Anderson told the all-white circuit court jury that he did not see the beginning of the fight between his father, Sam Stacy and Herman Stacy.

Father Is Charged

Donnie Anderson, James's father, also is charged with first degree murder but will be tried later.

"I was asleep in our truck at the gin. When I awoke I saw the Stacy brothers arguing with my father. Herman Stacy struck and knocked him down," Anderson testified. "I ran over and picked up a small piece of scrap lumber. I struck at Herman Stacy and he ducked the blow.

"Sam Stacy came after me with a tire tool. He struck me across the shoulders before I was able to get away. I ran about a hundred yards away from the scene and picked up a tree limb with several nails driven in either end. I thought my father was trapped. I ran into another building and then saw my father running toward me.

Advertiser

Leave By Gate

"We went out the gate of the gin and I threw down the stick, the defendant said. "I didn't know Sam Stacy was hurt."

Joe Poole, owner of the gin mill, said that he saw Anderson throw down the limb and verified the place that Anderson had first picked it up.

Sat. 11-5-49

Dr. James E. Kendrick, Greenville physician, refuted previous testimony by a state witness, Toxicologist W. L. Sowell, of Auburn.

Sowell had stated that death was caused by a punctured lung and subsequent hemorrhage. He said the exterior of Stacy's body had not been pierced but that rib pressure caused by a blow could have ruptured the lung.

Rupture Impossible

Dr. Kendrick said that it was impossible for rib pressure to cause the lung rupture.

Six white farmers from Conecuh County testified to the good character of James Anderson. All said they would believe his testimony. They said he was a peaceful man with a reputation for truthfulness.

A Negro witness, Willie E. Smith, said he saw the Stacy brothers beating Donnie Anderson with a broom.

It is expected that the case will be given to the jury sometime Saturday afternoon. Judge A. E. Gamble is presiding at the trial

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Conecuh Negro Goes On Trial

Advertiser

Fri. 11-4-49

Murder Is Charged In White Man's Death At Butler Cotton Gin

Montgomery Ala.

BY GERALD J. McALLISTER
Advertiser State Editor

GREENVILLE, ALA., Nov. 3—James Anderson, 24-year-old Conecuh Negro, charged with murdering Sam Stacy, a white man, went on trial today before an all-white circuit jury.

Donnie Anderson, James's father, faces a similar charge, but will be tried later.

The trial moved slowly. The state presented seven witnesses in an attempt to prove that Stacy died as a result of blows received in a fight among the two Negroes, Stacy and his brother, Herman.

13 c

Passed By Truck

Testimony by Herman L. Stacy took up most of the morning. He said the two Negroes passed them in a truck while en route to Joe Poole's cotton gin.

"When we arrived at the gin," Stacy said, "Donnie came over and said: 'I put you behind.'

"My brother told him 'that wasn't so smart' and then Donnie said: 'It was so goddamned easy,'" Stacy testified.

The witness then described a fight and said that James struck at him with a tree limb that had several nails in either end. Donnie chunked a rock and his brother collapsed and died, he said.

Closely Examined

Defense Counsel Roderick Beddow, top-notch Birmingham lawyer, went into minute detail in his cross-examination of Stacy. He tried to prove that the Stacy brothers provoked the fight and the Negroes begged to be let alone. Stacy denied the statement.

Star witness for the prosecution was state toxicologist W. L. Sowell, of Auburn. He said that several small hemorrhages were on Sam Stacy's body that could have been caused by the blow of a stick, rock or fist. He said that Stacy's death was caused by a punctured lung and a subsequent hemorrhage.

Body Not Pierced

Sowell said the exterior of his body was not pierced but that the lung could have been punctured by the pressure of a "soft rib" after a heavy blow.

Beddow sharply examined Sowell on the condition of Stacy's heart. It is expected that the defense later will offer evidence showing that death was due to heart failure or normal causes.

Other state witnesses were Clarence Sessions, Sam Sessions, Comer Sessions, Jimmie Ryals and Wilson Carpenter. They were around the cotton gin buildings at the time of Stacy's death.

Ryals testified that he heard one of the Negroes shout: "Let's get them out in the open and kill them."

Advertiser

Carpenter claimed he heard one of the Negroes say: "It looks like we got one of them already."

Fri. 11-4-49

Additional state witnesses will be heard Friday.

Excites Interest

The case has excited widespread interest throughout Butler County. The courtroom was packed during the day. The section for Negroes was filled.

Greenville has been alive with rumors that there would be an attempt to "railroad" the two Negroes.

Judge A. E. Gamble is presiding. Prosecutors are Circuit Solicitor Joe Kettler, County Solicitor Paul Hartley, and Special Prosecutors Howell P. Rogers and Lampkin Rogers.

Calvin Poole is associated with Beddow as defense attorney.

Negro Wins 2nd Execution Stay

13 c Ala.

A stay of execution has been granted a 28-year-old Negro to allow him to appeal his death sentence to the U. S. Supreme Court.

Advertiser

It is the second stay for Lonnie James Ball, who was convicted of killing an Oxford, Ala., police chief May 7, 1948. Both stays were granted by the State Supreme Court.

Ball was convicted of killing Police Chief Robert E. Sparks when the officer attempted to arrest him. His conviction was upheld by the State Supreme Court and the execution date set for Aug. 12.

Montgomery Ala.

Later, the court granted a stay until Dec. 30 to allow Ball's attorneys to ask for a rehearing. It was turned down, however, last Thursday.

Ball, who testified he served overseas with the army during World War II, pleaded innocent by reason of insanity. He said he was drunk at the time and did not remember any of the shooting.

Thurs.

His attorneys contended the Negro was denied due process of law since effective appointment and assistance of counsel was not provided in his arraignment.

11-24-49

The jury was not selected in accordance with federal principles with regard to discrimination and Ball was tried in an atmosphere of mob violence, they added.

Charged With Killing White Man, Acquitted

Chicago, Ill. Def. 11-19-49

Defender.

GRREENSVILLE, Ala.—An all-white jury here last Sunday acquitted James Anderson of the murder of a white planter and cattle raiser.

The "not guilty" verdict was rendered in the five-day trial of the 24-year-old Anderson of Conecuh county, who was accused of killing Sam Stacey, the white man, in a fight at Butler county cotton gin.

The youth's father, Donnie Anderson, 46, also is under indictment for murder in Stacy's death and will be tried later.

The jury accepted a physician's testimony that Stacy died of a heart attack and not of injuries allegedly suffered in the fight.

Sam Stacy and his brother, Herman, both of Monroe county, were said to have engaged the Andersons in a fight at the gin. Testimony at the trial pointed to an argument between the white brothers and the Negro father and son at the gin after the colored men's truck passed the Stacy's enroute and won the right to have their cotton unloaded first.

On the witness stand Herman Stacy said the Andersons taunted him and his brother on the road.

The Andersons testified that they were accosted and threatened by the white men because they got to the gin first. Young Anderson told the court he was asleep in the truck when he awoke to find his father and the Stacy brothers in a heated argument. Young Anderson said that Herman Stacy knocked his father down and he went to his parent's rescue. The youth stated that Herman dodged a blow he attempted to strike with a piece of lumber.

Anderson testified that Sam Stacy then struck him (James Anderson) with a tire tool which caused him to flee the scene.

Herman Stacy told the court the Negro youth struck at him several times with a tree limb that had several nails driven into it, and that the father threw a rock at Sam Stacy, who collapsed and died.

11-19-49

The youth denied having in his possession a limb of any kind at the time of the fight.

State Toxicologist W. L. Sowell, white, of Auburn, testifying for the state, said Stacy died of a lung rupture which could have been caused by the blow of a rock, stick or fist, although the exterior of his body was not pierced.

However, Dr. James E. Kendrick, a white physician of Greenville, took sharp issue with Sowell's theory and said that Stacy obviously died of a heart attack.

Roderick Beddow of Birmingham and Calvin Poole of Greenville, both white, were defense counsel in the case. Beddow is one of Alabama's criminal lawyers.

13c 1949

Legal Sentence (Arkansas)

SENTENCED FOR STABBING

Negro Given 21 Years For Murder Of Wife

M'GEHEE, Ark., Apriy 14.—The Desha Circuit Court Wednesday sentenced Peter Higgins, 48, a negro, to a 21-year penitentiary sentence for the fatal stabbing of his wife seven years ago. Higgins escaped after the crime, which took place near Arkansas City, but was arrested last December in Phoenix, Ariz. Higgins pleaded guilty to second degree murder.

Fred Waters, 50, negro, who broke into the homes of Spurgeon Howell and Gilbert Reid, white residents. April 2, pleaded guilty and was sentenced to three years on each offense.

Hubert Hokes, 29, negro, was sentenced to a year on a charge of entering the home of Sylvester Hawking of McGehee, and taking a watch, rings and clothing.

Officers still are investigating four recent safecracking jobs here.

13C

Memphis Tenn

Commercial Appeal

Apr 15-49

Race Woman May Be District's 1st Electrocuted

The Oklahoma Eagle

WASHINGTON, D. C. (NNPA) A District Court jury last Tuesday found Clotiel Cox, 38-year old waitress, guilty of first degree murder.

Court attaches said she would be the first woman to die in the electric chair in the District jail, if her convicton is not reversed or the President does not commute her sentence to life imprisonment.

Under the District of Columbia criminal code, a sentence of death is mandatory unless the jury recommends mercy in its verdict finding a defendant guilty of first-degree murder.

Tulsa, Okla.

Miss Cox was found guilty of the fatal shooting last August 2 of Mrs. Hattie lavender, 34, in the Dunbar Hotel.

Thurs. 1-27-49

The jury, which deliberated an hour and a half before returning the firstdegree murder verdict, was composed of six men and six women, including a colored man and three colored women.

Not since 1865 has a woman been executed here. Mary E. Surratt was hanged here on July 8, 1865, by the military after a military commission had convicted her of complicity in the assassination of President Lincoln.

The trial of Miss Cox opened Monday, January 17, before Judge Henry A. Schweinhaut.

Testimony during the two-day trial showed that Miss Cox shot Mrs. Lavender in the latter's apartment at the Dunbar as the result of a love triangle. The two women were discribed as rivals for the love of Casey Lavender, a Navy petty officer.

Question Of Use Of Confessions Raised

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World

By LOUIS LAUTIER

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(NNPA)—The United States Supreme Court last Monday refused to review its sixth case, five of them involving the death penalty, on the ground that it lacked jurisdiction.

All of these cases raised the question of the use of confessions, allegedly obtained by police third-degree methods. to obtain convictions.

Whether these refusals indicate a trend in the court since the deaths of Justices Frank Murphy and Wiley Rutledge cannot definitely be established because the judges vote in secret to review or not to review a case.

13c

But last June 27, before the death of the two liberal justices, the court reversed three cases in which extorted confessions had been used to obtain convictions in murder cases.

Wed. 11-2-49

In those decisions Justices Felix Frankfurter, Murphy, Rutledge, William O. Douglas, and Hugo Black voted for reversals. Justice Robert H. Jackson voted for reversal in one and for sustaining the convictions in the other two.

VOTE TO SUSTAIN

Chief Justice Fred M. Vinson and Associate Justice Stanley F. Reed and Harold H. Burton voted to sustain the conviction in all three cases.

With Justice Douglas absent because of injuries he sustained last summer when a horse fell on him Rutledge and Murphy removed by death, the old justices apparently would be evenly divided with the scales slightly weighted against consideration of such cases by Justice Jackson. The deciding votes would be those of the two new justices,, Justices Tom Clark and Sherman Minton. Neither of the latter two participated in the conferencees which resulted in rejection of appeals in all six cases.

Tthe law controlling the validity of a conviction because an allegedly coerced confession was used was stated by Justice Frankfurter in the case of Robert A. Watts one of the three cases in which state supreme courts were reversed last June 27.

Watts, who was charged with murder in the course of an attempted criminal assault, was held by Indiana police for six days without being given a preliminary hearing and questioned intermittently.

Justice Frankfurter, in the majority opinion, said only those elements of the events and circumstances in which a confession was involved that are unquestioned in the State's version of what happened are relevant to the constitutional issue," but the Supreme Court, in cases where force has been applied, 'does not leave to local determination whether or not the confession was voluntary."

FRANKFURTER DECLARATION

"To turn the detention of an accused into a process of wrenching from him evidence which could not be extorted in open court with all its safeguards, is so grave and abuse of the power of arrest as to offend the procedural standards of due process," Justice Frankfurter said.

The case, which the Supreme Court last Monday refused to review was that of Eddie (Buster) Patton, who was convicted of the murder of Jim Meadows, a white man, at Meridian, Mississippi.

Patton's first conviction, in 1947 was reversed by the Supreme Court because of the exclusion of colored persons from juries in 1948, new jury lists were made up, consisting of both white and colored persons. Three colored persons served on the grand jury which indicate Patton and one was drawn for the petit jury.

At the second trial, Patton was again convicted and sentenced to be electrocuted.

13c 1949 Legal Sentence (Florida)

Draws Jail Sentence For Killing Negro

The first person in Lee County, Florida, ever sentenced to a jail term for killing a Negro was free under a $10,000 bond Wednesday pending an appeal to the State Supreme Court.

Daily record Thurs. 11-3-49

R. W. Randall, 65, today was given five years in prison for the slaying of Leroy Samms, a tenant in a house owned by Randell, a Fort Myers Real Estate dealer.

Atlanta, Ga.

The Negro allegedly was killed last February 6 during an argument over payment of rent.

Life Sentence For Once-Doomed Youth

Atlanta Daily World

Following a reversal of a death penalty conviction by the Georgia Supreme court, a 17-year-old youth charged with the robbery-murder of a Decatur Street junk dealer is expected to be sentenced to life imprisonment today.

The once-doomed youth, Howard Johnson, had been tried and given the death penalty by a Fulton Superior court jury on March 23, 1948 for his alleged participation in the slaying of A. M. Goldstein, Jewish junk dealer who operated at 444 Decatur St. The state had contended that Johnson conspired with 15-year-old Hollis Daniels, alias Jimmy Washington, in a $15 robbery that resulted in fatal injury to the dealer who was bludgeoned at the time.

Atlanta Georgia

Jan. 1-14-49

Evidence produced at the trials of both tended to show that although the dealer did not succumb from the blow inflicted by one of the youths, it was indirectly responsible for his death when he fell against a scale and suffered two fractured ribs that punctured a lung.

COMPANION GIVEN LIFE

Daniels was meted a life-term sentence for his alleged participation in the murder.

Through the efforts of Attorney A Tate Conyers, who defended Johnson during the original trial, the case was appealed to state Supreme court on the grounds that Presiding Judge Bond Almand had charged the jury on confessions when no confession had been sworn to by his client. It was argued that perhaps Johnson made incriminatory admissions during the investigation of the crime but such was not tantamount to be a confession. The State Supreme court ruled in the attorney's favor.

A brief session of the case was reheard Thursday whereby the presiding judge announced he would give sentence today.

It was learned that Atty. Conyers was appointed by the court to defend Johnson.

White Man Given Life Sentence in Negroes' Deaths

Atlanta Constitution

MACON — (AP) — Louie DuBose, 45-year-old Macon white man, was sentenced to life imprisonment on [illegible] two counts of murder Tuesday night in connection with the swamp slaying of two Negroes last March.

Atlanta, Ga.

Sentence was passed by Judge A. M. (Phil) Anderson after a Bibb Superior Court jury returned a verdict of guilty with a recommendation for mercy in the deaths of Jim Mitchell, 65, and Ira Parker, 19.

The jury deliberated less than an hour. Thurs. 5. 12. 49

Ga. White Kills Two, Gets Life

The Defender

By JOHN LeFLORE

(Defender Southeastern Bureau)

Chicago, Ill.

MACON, Ga. — The murder of two Negroes was avenged here last week when Louie DuBose, 45-year-old local white man, was sentenced to life imprisonment.

Judge A. M. Anderson sentenced DuBose for the March, swamp slaying of Jim Mitchell, 65, and Ira Parker, 19, after the Bibb Superior Court jury, after less than one hour's deliberation, returned a verdict of guilty with a recommendation for mercy.

Although regarded as a murder at first, local residents have considered this a case of lynching with jealousy of Mitchell, a quiet, hard-working bricklayer, as the motive. The case had the same elements as contained in the notorious Mallard murder.

Implicated by Partner

DuBose had been implicated by John McKinney, a participant in the double murder, who admitted that the crime had been committed near the Ocmulgee river in a swamp. Sat. 5-28-49

First report of the slaying came when an unidentified Negro called Sheriff Julian Peacock and stated he had seen the white men marching the Negroes toward the swamp. He insisted on an investigation.

Following the investigation, three white men were picked up and wallets belonging to the victims, containing $200, were found on their person. The river was dragged and Mitchell's body was found. More information from the prisoners led to the discovery of Parker's body in the same stream a short distance from that of Mitchell.

Convicted In Murder Of 2 Men

Pittsburgh, Pa.

Pittsburgh Courier

MACON, Ga. — Louis Debose, 45-year-old Macon white man, last week was sentenced to serve life in prison for the March swamp slaying of two Negroes.

A jury in Bibb Superior Court deliberated less than an hour before returning guilty verdicts in two counts, with a recommendation of mercy. Under Georgia law, the life-term sentence was mandatory upon recommendation of mercy by the trial jury.

Sat. 5-28-49

Sentence was passed by Judge A. M. Anderson. Sat. 5-28-49

Debose and another white man were accused by the State of slaying 65-year-old Jim Mitchell and Ira Parker, 19, last March. Robbery was believed the motive in the slaying.

Sheriff, 3 Aides Held for Trial

12 Accused in Beating of 7 Property Owners

ROME, Ga. (NNPA)—A Federal grand jury, last Wednesday, indicted 12 white men, including the sheriff and three deputies of Dage County, in connection with the masked flogging of seven colored men at Hooker, Ga.

Among the 70 witnesses called by the grand jury in its two-day investigation was Dr. Samuel Green of Atlanta, grand dragon of the Ku Klux Klan. Green testified twice, once last Tuesday and again last Wednesday.

Afro-American

The jury charged the 12 white men with "conspiring to injure, oppress and intimidate" seven men "by assaulting them," after it was testified by an FBI agent that whites had been putting pressure on them to get them to sell valuable property they owned along the Rome-Chattanooga Highway.

Sat. 8-13-49

Anti-Masking Law Invoked

Meanwhile, in Ozark, Ala., last week, the first arrests were made of persons to be taken into custody under Alabama's five-week-old anti-masking law.

Ironically enough, the arrests, despite the fact that white, night-riding terrorists continue to beat and threaten both white and colored people in the Montgomery area, were of three colored men.

The "crime" for which the State's first three suspects under the anti-masking law were apprehended was the chasing of two colored girls down an Ozark street on July 14 while wrapped in sheets, after the girls were accused by the men of misconduct.

Prisoners Given to Mob

The indictments in Georgia specifically charged that Dade County Sheriff John W. Lynch and his three deputies "allowed the colored men to be punished without trial and without due process of law by releasing them to the mob."

The sheriff and the deputies contended the mob forced them to give up their prisoners, who allegedly had been arrested during a raid of a "wild" party.

The jury said in its indictment that investigation showed that the gang members which took the men from the officers and flogged them were "disguised as Ku Klux Klansmen."

Told to "Forget" Beatings

The lashings occurred on April 2. The colored men charged that Lynch and his deputies came to the home of Mrs. Mamie Clay, a colored woman, and arrested them while they were attending a party.

The officers then turned them over to a mob of "50 or 75" masked men who were burning a cross in front of the Clay house, the victims said. The masked men them away and lashed each one separately, it was charged, then told them to "go away and forget about this."

The deputies were identified as N. Stokes McCauley, William H. Hartline and John Bleckley. The other eight indicted men, all residents of Dade County, were Robert L. Keener, Terrell T. Wheeler, Truman Purcell, Woodrow Daniel, Sam Peters, Middleton Durham, John Wilkins and L.C. Spears.

The seven victims of the flogging were listed as A.C. Hale, James E. Hale, Richard Scott, Leroy Wood, Roland Davis, William West and Charles Roberts.

State Investigator G.S. Prier, in the Alabama anti-masking case, said that the suspects, along with several other men, decided that they needed some kind of organization to check the girls' immoral behavior and formed their own Klan on July 1.

Prier added that after things were getting hot for them and, needing money to leave town, wrote themselves letters "from the KKK" advising them "to get out of town."

The investigators said that they thought this would influence their relatives to provide them with traveling expenses.

Held in $300 bail apiece are Tommie Johnson, Raymond Mc Clendon and Robert Miller. A fourth member of the group, a minor, was turned over to juvenile authorities. Two other men are sought, according to Prier.

Stiff Sentences Cited In Murder Abatement

Atlanta Ga. Constitution

Sol. Gen. Paul Webb said yesterday his campaign for heavier sentences for Negroes convicted of murder had begun to bear fruit and pointed to the heavy sentences meted out in three cases.

One Negro was given 20 years for murder and two others received life sentences.

"The process of education," said Sol. Gen. Webb, "and our manner of trying cases is beginning to take effect. Jurors are now recognizing that Negroes are entitled to the same protection from murderers as white people and are more and more disinclined to give light sentences for such offenses."

Thurs. 10-13-49

Asst. Sol. Bob Blackwood secured, in trials before Judge Virlyn Moore, life sentences for Frank Wise, who shot Rufus Lee Carter to death April 16, and for Willie Lee Daniel, who shot George Grant to death April 16.

Henry Edward Johnson, found guilty of murder at a trial at which Judge E. E. Andrews presided, was sentenced to 20 years. He shot Raifus McCrary to death Sept. 3. Asst. Sol. Ogden Doremus prosecuted him.

As We See It

The Truth About the NAACP In the Ingram Case

By Abner W. Berry

Daily Worker N.Y., N.Y.

Thur. 2-17-49

13c

L. Sent

(Ma)

THE LAST PLACE one should look for a frameup or a forced "confession" is the national office of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. But, having set the pattern with the firing of Dr. W. E. B. DuBois last year, the "national office" tried its hand at another angle last Friday.

With a fanfare and triumphal stirrings the "national office" presented the press with Mrs. Geneva Rushin, the daughter of Mrs. Rosa Lee Ingram. Mrs. Rushin, one of 14 children, has had to care for 11 of ther brothers and sisters while her mother and two brothers, Sammy and Wallace, serve life sentences for the self-defense slaying of a white Georgia farmer in November, 1947. The NAACP has had charge of the defense of Mrs. Ingram and groups of all political persuasions—including the Communist Party—have supported the defense morally and financially.

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LAST FRIDAY, however, Mrs. Rushin had a statement written for her in the form of an "affidavit" in which she "confessed" obvious untruths. This sordid act of intimidation, in which a jailed mother was obviously used as a "hostage" and the title to a home as a "reward," was supposed to take the "national office" off a hook. It was also considered a victorious thrust at the left. The devils in the case were the International Workers Order and Negro Youth Builders Institute, Inc., two organizations who had helped care for the Ingram children. Youth Builders had planned to bring north and educate the entire family.

This fact, once accomplished, would have been a severe criticism of the "national office," which has announced that nearly $50,000 has been collected as a defense fund for the jailed Ingrams. But the criticism would have been fully justified from the words of Mrs. Rushin, herself, which I have before me in her own handwriting.

According to the "national office affidavit," Mrs. Rushin was lured into trusting two of her brothers with the IWO and promising custody of the other children to Youth Builders because these organizations represented themselves as being affiliated with the NAACP.

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I HAVE SEEN Mrs. Rushin's application for membership in Youth Builders. The application card says nothing about such affiliation. In addition, there has been a voluminous correspondence between Mrs. Rushin and Youth Builders and there is no mention of the NAACP in any one of them that I have seen.

In her "statement" which the "national office" issued last Friday, Mrs. Rushin is made to say in "national office" language: ". . . at all times I order enough food to properly feed the family. That the family has enough clothing and is adequately provided for under the circumstances."

Thur 2-17-49

But on Feb. 1, 1949, Mrs. Rushin wrote to Youth Builders from her home in Leslie, Ga.: **"Got your letter today; very glad to get the money for medicine. Robert and Frankey Mae is much better now . . . All the rest are sitting up . . . used part of my fare** (money Youth Builders had sent for train fare for her and the children to come to New York) **because I did not have a penny over when they took sick . . ."** The letter describes the children's fever and vomiting and continues: "I carry them to a doctor. He says that they was bilious (because of eating one kind of food all time and (that) they had the flu . . ."

That was Mrs. Rushin speaking on Feb. 1. But when the "national office" spoke for her on Feb. 11, the words came out like this ". . . anyone who has publicly announced that any of the children are without proper proper medical care, hungry, naked, and that snakes creep into the house spoke an untruth."

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I CAN PERSONALLY vouch for the fact that Mrs. Rushin's brother, James Ingram, 13, told reporters not long ago while he was in New York that he had "killed four snakes" in the house where the family now lives in Leslie. But let us get on with the frameup.

On Jan. 6, 1949, Mrs. Rushin wrote to Youth Builders:

"I don't want to go and see mother (Mrs. Rosa Lee Ingram) but we don't have any money to go and take the kids like she wants me. **We saw her once last June."** (My emphasis—AWB) Mrs. Rushin continues to make this fact stand out: "And (we) hadn't again."

2-17-49

The "national office" "affidavit" stiffly quotes Mrs. Rushin as declaring: "Adequate provisions are made whenever I request to take the children to visit mother through the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People."

There are other letters from Mrs. Rushin acknowledging receipt of money, toys and clothing for the family. Youth Builders, 2207 Seventh Ave., has on hand for inspection the letters and postal receipts confirming the letters. Yet the "national office" claims that Mrs. Rushin had received none of the money which had been raised by groups other than the NAACP.

It is time to ask why were the facilities of the NAACP manipulated by the "national office" from Georgia to New York to palm off an untruth on the public. Was it in the interest of freeing Mrs. Rosa Lee Ingram?

Would it attract more support for the campaign?

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THROUGH THE IWO and Youth Builders the people were getting a chance to act—in addition to giving money generously—on the Ingram case. But the "national office" struck out to protect its "monopoly" position. And in forcing the "affidavit" or "confession" from Mrs. Rushin they struck at the unity of the people that is necessary if Mrs. Ingram—and, indeed, the entire Negro people—are to be free.

Women Ask Release Of Mrs. Ingram

13c

WASHINGTON —A petition urging the release of Mrs. Rose Lee Ingram, who, along with her two sons, is being held in a Georgia prison for the slaying of a white tenant farmer, was presented at the White House this week by an interracial group of 50 women representing the National Committee to Free the Ingram Family.

Macon Negro Dies Today In Slaying Of Policeman

Daily World

Atlanta, Ga

13c

A 20-year-old man, Junior Moore, will die in the electric chair in Reidsville State prison today for the murder of a Macon policeman last June.

The Georgia pardon and parole board Tuesday denied an appeal of Moore for a commutation of his death sentence to imprisonment.

He was convicted last September of shooting Macon city detective W. L. O'Cain in an alley.

Moore had claimed that he thought the detective was another Negro with whom he had had a dispute.

Ingram Delegation Found Both Contempt And Courtesy On Their Southern Tour

Atlanta Daily World Atlanta, Ga.

Goodwill Tour Proves Successful

13c

L. Sent

Wed 5-18-49

By ALICE A. DUNNIGAN

THE LAST IN A SERIES OF ARTICLES ON THE VISIT TO THE INGRAMS BY A DELEGATION FROM THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO FREE THE INGRAM FAMILY

WASHINGTON—(ANP)— The fact that the delegation from the National Committee to Free the Ingram Family had federal protection before visiting the Ingrams in Georgia was proven by the way that the storm clouds, which both figuratively and literally hung over Augusta when they arrived, were cleared away within 24 hours leaving a clear, blue sky and a calm, sunny day.

As pre-arranged the delegation visited the Ingram children in their home near Americus on a Saturday afternoon then drove to Macon that night and boarded a train for Augusta. According to plans, the group arrived in Augusta around midnight, going directly to the home of an outstanding citizen, whose name is purposely being withheld.

5-18-49

Greeted with whispering tones, the delegation was quickly ushered into the bright living room. The cheerful and pleasant atmosphere, which the splendor and color of this cozy room would have offered under ordinary circumstances, had now by its hush, hush silence, apparently been engulfed in a shroud of fear.

TELEPHONE CALL

This fear was incited by a telephone call which the head of the household had received earlier in the day regarding the delegation which he had permited to stay in his home. Apparently word had preceded the group that an interracial delegation from New York was going to visit the Georgia town and stop in the home of a colored family and according to the telephone call, the city officials were "up in arms."

Like a contagious disease, the fear which had grappled those already in the house soon grasped the nerves of the new comers. It was increased when one person claimed that she saw a "white man" lurking in the dark around the house.

It was literally a stormy night and the rain was coming down in torrents. The dreadful weather linked with the inner fear gave the delegates an excuse for not leaving the house that night, in spite of the arrangements which had been made for two to stay at the house across the street, two at another home and two to remain at this home. The fear gradually subsided, however, when the local family become aware of the fact that the delegation was all Negro. All six were permitted to stay at this home after it was discovered that each of them was fearful of leaving the house.

5-18-49

Dr. Gene Weltfish, who had not been permitted to leave her classes at Columbia university earlier in the week, flew down to Atlanta on Saturday expecting to join the delegation. Upon her arrival she was informed that the group had gone to Augusta. She then joined a white New York reporter and two white Atlanta citizens leaving the city Saturday night by automibile. After driving all nght they arrived in Augusta on Sunday morning to join the delegation on its way to visit Mrs. Ingram at the prison.

12c

CONSULTATION

The delegation, which had suddenly became interracial, so disturbed the host that he called in the pastor of his church and several other influential citizens of that city for consultation. After some private discussions, the prison warden was contacted by telephone, and to the group's surprise he politely invited the delegation to visit the prison at 10:30 a. m. arriving there the delegates were received with much courtesy. The Georgia prison rules, which say definitely that prisoners can only be visited by relatives or their attorneys between the hours of 2 and 3, were suspended.

Back in Atlanta on Monday members of the party called the governor's office for an appointment. His secretary informed the spokesman that although Gov. Talmadge was not making appointments that morning, if the delegation should drop in, she was sure that the governor would receive them.

Unfortunately the ladies did not arrive at the Capitol until 12 o'clock noon, and the governor had left his office for a luncheon talk at the Hotel Men's association meeting.

The delegation was treated with good hospitality by the governor's secretary and the Capital reception ist that is so traditionally known to the south. The representatives left a statement for the governor requesting that he use his "executive power to review the Ingram case: and asked in the light of justice that he grant to Mrs Rosa Lee Lngram and her two sons their freedom.

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Mrs. Mary Church Terrell, chairman of the committee sent wires to President Truman and Atty. Gen. Tom Clark, before the delegation left the east asking for federal protection. When these telegrams were not answered, Mrs. Terrell visited the White House and justice department making personal requests for the safety of the group which was composed of women,

Believing that the federal government had passed the word along to the governor of Georgia to guarantee the safety of these women, this reporter checked with the White House and justice department on her return to Washington. The White House said that the telegram which it received was sent on to the department of justice under whose jurisdiction such matters would fall. The Attorney General's office was very inquisitive as to now the delegation was treated. After being informed the courtesy they were received with in the South, the spokesman said that credit should be given to the Georgia state officials. However, he added, that the justice department had been assured that there would be no trouble. The later statement implied that the justice department must have had some contact with Georgia officials regarding the delegation.

The attitude of the male population of Atlanta which at first received the delegation with some reluctancy had completely changed by the time the delegation left Georgia.

5-18-49

PEOPLE CONCERNED

Colonel A. T. Walden, attorney for the Ingrams said that he had been "convinced for a long time that the heart of the rank and file of the Negro people is right and that the ordinary people see our problems with greater discernment then many of the supposed leaders of our group.

In expressing his high regard for the chairman of the committee, the NAACP lawyer said, "it is most fitting and becoming that a woman of the statute of Mrs. Mary Church Terrell should sponsor such a movement among the women of the nation, because she has in her own life and personality exhibited the finest type of womanhood in the nation."

The group is convinced that its visit to Georgia did a tremendous amount of good. It feels it won the friendship and cooperation of the citizens of that state, as well as many state and city officials, and secured the good will of the federal government in this humanitarian effort to free the symbolic "mother of 1949."

5-18-49

'God Knows How Much I Can Bear'

Her name is Mrs. Rosa Lee Ingram. Remember? A 42-year-old brown-skinned widow and mother of fourteen children . . . a former Georgia share-cropper.

She's the same Rosa Lee Ingram that Americans and the NAACP were fighting for several months ago. Remember? Thousands of Americans contributed over $45,000 to the NAACP's Ingram defense fund. The battle cry was on then: "Free Mrs. Ingram and her two sons."

The Courier Pittsburgh Pa.

Americans shed tears for Mrs. Ingram then. They remembered that she refused to become a white share-cropper's mistress, that she fought off his attacks. They remembered that the white man was killed and that Mrs. Ingram and two of her boys were jailed, sentenced to the chair (the death sentence was later commuted to life imprisonment).

That was months ago. The battle cry now is a feeble voice in the wilderness.

Poor Mrs. Ingram sits in her cell now in the Georgia prison near Reidsville, waiting, praying . . . and answering the few letters she receives.

The Pittsburgh Courier this week received one of these letters . . . a touching letter written by Mrs. Ingram to one of her few remaining friends out in Indianapolis, Ind. The letter was addressed to Miss Willa Thomas, prominent Baptist church leader in the State of Indiana.

Wrote Mrs. Ingram:

"I am not feeling so well, but I am trusting in the Lord to help me back home to my little children It hurts me so bad to be from my children, but I hope that it won't be always before I can be home.

"I don't have no good health . . . I just put my trust in God. He is able to help me. He knows how much I can bear. So I am praying to Him to fix it for me to go home to my children.

"I do want to go home so bad, I just get to thinking about where I am from my little children. It makes me cry sometimes. I can't rest, but I trust in the Lord that it won't be always before I can be with my children. It hurts me so bad.

"Remember me in your prayers.

"From a child of God

"ROSA LEE INGRAM."

Prison Walls Have Not Stilled Her Voice

By Joseph North

AUGUSTA, Ga., April 3.–The great doors opened. Four tall, armed men stepped back a discreet distance and Mrs. Rosa Lee Ingram walked out into the open dusty space before the Richmond County Prison farm which sprawls two miles out of this ancient Confederate town.

New York New York

MRS. INGRAM

She advanced toward the delegation of women as simply as though they were guests who came to visit her in her own home. "Won't you all sit down?" she said and gestured to a bench beneath a tree green with spring. "It's a bit dusty here," she said, "but I hope you don't mind. It appears the wind's a little strong this time of season."

Mon-4-4-49

Those who came to visit her, some from a thousand miles and more, had foreknowledge that they would find an unusual woman, but they were unprepared for the person they found. She seemed to embody all the tragedy, all the strength of Georgia women whose skin is dark.

Mon-4-4-49

I have seen many a prisoner behind bars, more than I care to recall, but I cannot remember one who surpassed the spiritual strength of this little mother of 12 whom the great state of Georgia has condemned to live out the rest of her life behind locked gates.

As though that were not brutality enough, her two teen-age sons who had defended her life and her honor from a neighboring white farmer, were sentenced, too, for life.

Yet she bore herself with a dignity that dwarfed the vindictive strength of Georgia justice.

EXPLAINS MISSION

Her handsome brown face immobile, she listened, head up, as Mrs. Therese Robinson, spokesman for the delegation, explained its mission here on behalf of the newly formed National Committee to Free the Ingram Family.

Mrs. Robinson is national grand director of the Elks Civil Liberties Committe and is clearly a woman of strength, but she could not hold back her tears. Several of the women sobbed as Mrs. Ingram replied, looking directly into Mrs. Robinson's eyes: "I wish to be there so bad with my children. I'll be so glad to be back with my children." She repeats this quietly, in a whisper, like a prayer.

One of the guards, a lanky, stone faced man in a black hat, strolled over to the group and listened intently.

Mrs. Ingram continued to speak with the infinite calm of one who has known the worst life could offer, and who knows her own innocence. Her noble bearing dominated everything that happened. The women ask of her health, her work, her clothes, for it is cold today and she wears only a thin, pink dress. One of the women takes off her overcoat and wraps it around the shoulders of the prisoner.

No, she doesn't feel so good all the time. Her heart has been giving her trouble and she must work in all kinds of weather. Much of her work is tending the sick and waiting on table.

SCANTY CLOTHING

No, she has no other clothes than those she wears, for the prison regulations don't permit anything but the garb the wardens hand out. Her daughter had sent her some clothes, but they were returned save for a sweater. But she doesn't care to talk much about food, about clothes, about her prison labor. She returns to the idea that dominates her. "I miss my children so bad, sometimes I don't know what to do," she says. "It hurts my heart for my little children.

Mon-4-4-49

Over by the gate the guards keep laughing. Something had struck them funny and they couldn't contain themselves. Their laughter burst through every word.

The tall guard stands listening to every word, but the women and the prisoner speak as though he doesn't exist. "We have started a crusade to free you and your children," the delegation spokesman says. "We are going to collect a million signatures to send President Truman on Mothers Day for your freedom."

THANKS DELEGATION

She listens somberly, replies "Thank you."

Mon-4-4-49

The delegation of busy, forceful women, representing millions who feel as they do, includes Mrs. W. A. Scot, one of the owners of the Atlanta World who is here as member of the special committee the local NAACP women's division has set up to help the Ingram family; Mrs. Rose Blocker, 71, chairman of the Republican Federation of Women's Clubs for Manhattan; Dr. Gene Weltfish, anthropologist and president of the Congress of American Women; Mrs. Alice Dunnigan, Washington correspondent of the Associated Negro Press; Mrs. Maude White, administrative secretary of the National Committee to Free the Ingram Family. George P. Murphy, Progressive Party leader and representative of J. Finley Wilson, grand exalted ruler of the Negro Elks, accompanied the delegation whose request of President Truman for safe conduct here was ignored.

Others, local leading Negro figures of Augusta, include Dr. J. S. Outler; the Rev. A. J. Rice; William H. Wilborn, executive secretary of the Business and Civic League.

2 SONS IN PRISON

Mrs. Ingram speaks of her two teen-age sons in prison at Readville. "They write me every week, often as they can. They're working in the field. They worry so about me."

She speaks of tragedy dry-eyed, as though she had lived with it a long, long while, and there was no time for tears.

The visit closed as the chill April wind kicked up whirls of dust. Mrs. Ingram handed back the coat to one of the women and walked slowly to the gates. She turned to the delegation:

Mon-4-4-49

"I don't believe I would like my children to live in Georgia," she says finally. "I don't know what the people might do."

The doors close on her as she waves goodbye.

Committee of 7 Seeks to Save Woman Slayer

New York Herald Tribune

New York, New York

Georgia Negro Sentenced in Man's Death, Told of Effort to Get Truman Aid

Mon-4-4-49

Special to the Herald Tribune

AUGUSTA, Ga., April 3.—A committee of seven women, two of them white, called on Mrs. Rosa Lee Ingraham, forty-one-year-old Negro, today at the Richmond County Home and assured her that they would try to get President Truman to save her from the life term to which she was sentenced for murder. Mrs. Maude White, of New York, administrative secretary of the committee, told Mrs. Ingram that they hoped to present a petition with 1,000,000 signatures to the President on Mother's Day.

Mrs. Ingram is the mother of twelve children. Two of them, Wallace Ingram, seventeen, and Sammie Lee Ingram, fifteen, were convicted with her on Jan. 26, 1948, of the murder of John E. Stratford, sixty-six, a white tenant farmer, near Ellaville. Another son, Jackson Ingram jr., admitted stealing money from the body of the murdered man and was sentenced to a year's imprisonment. Another son, Charles, was tried on the murder charge and acquitted.

"I hope you do all you can to get me back to my children," Mrs. Ingram told her visitors today. "It's awful for a mother to be away from her children. I wouldn't want to live in Georgia, though, if they let me out because I don't know what the people might do to me."

Beside Mrs. White, members of the committee were Dr. Gene Weltfish, of Columbia Univeristy, anthropologist; Mrs. Rosa Blocker, chairman of the Manhattan division of the Federation of Republican Women's Clubs; Mrs. Ada Jackson, of Brooklyn, chairman of the Inter-Racial Assembly; Mrs. Therese L. Robinson, of Washington, head of the women's division of civil libertise of the Negro Elks Organization; Mrs. W. A. Scott, of Atlanta, treasurer of the Atlanta Auxiliary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and Mrs. William Stafford, of Atlanta.

The committee was received by David Franklin, chairman of the Richmond County Commission; R. L. Chavous, county warden, and J. R. McElmurray, superintendent of the almshouse. Mrs. Ingram was transferred last January from the state prison in Reidsville to the county home and has been employe din household and garden work.

Mon-4-4-49

Members of the committee said they were seeking her release because they felt she had not received justice in the court. She and her sons were found guilty by a jury that failed to recommend mercy, and at first the death sentence was imposed. The judge, however, commuted that to life imprisonment, saying that the case had rested on circumstantial evidence.

Mr. Stratford was beaten to death on Nov. 4, 1947. It was alleged that he was attacked by members of the Ingram family in the course of a quarrel about a mule belonging to the Ingrams which had strayed into one of Mr. Stratford's fields. Members of the visiting committee said, however, that Mrs. Ingram was defending her honor in the encounter with Mr. Stratford.

Mrs. Ingram To New Jail

Pittsburg Courier

(Special to The Courier)

REIDSVILLE, Ga.—Mrs. Rosa Lee Ingram, now serving a life sentence for the self-defense slaying of a white sharecropper in Nov., 1947, was whisked away to Tatnall Prison here at the request of Superintendent John McMurray of the Richmond County Farm where she had been confined.

Pittsburg Courier

Mr. McMurray blamed a continuous stream of visitors, long-distance telephone calls and bags of letters protesting the Ingrams' imprisonment for the change, saying that it was impossible to maintain prison routine and discipline in the face of the constant interruptions. Mrs. Ingram had been a trusty at the farm and assigned to light tasks.

Sat-4-23-49

WOMEN VISIT

The national spotlight fell on the Richmond County Farm following a visit by representatives of a woman's organization, April 10, seeking to assure Mrs. Ingram that every effort was being made to secure her freedom. The group was made up of seven women of both races.

"We don't, or didn't, have the room necessary for entertaining her guests, Superintendent McMurray told reporters this week when they sought to interview and photograph Mrs. Ingram. "While here she received too many calls and delegations to do any work. The people here had plenty of work to do, and that's what they are here to do," he added.

Sat-4-23-49

ONLY BOARD CAN ACT

Meanwhile, informed observers

who have talked with Governor Talmadge and other high State officials, emphasized the fact that there is nothing that can be done to effect the release of Mrs. Ingram and her sons by any source other than the Georgia State Board of Pardons and Paroles.

President Truman has no power to intervene under Federal laws, nor has Governor Talmadge.

NAACP counsel acting in Mrs. Ingram's behalf have stated that they were planning to appear before the Pardons and Paroles Board to ask freedom for the widow and her sons. Until that appearance is made and a decision is officially recorded by the board, all other efforts and planning will be simply a waste of time, energy and expense for all concerned.

SCARED OF GEORGIA

Mrs. Ingram has expressed again her desire to return to her children, but added that she "wouldn't want to live in Georgia if they let me out, because I don't know what people might do to me."

Mrs. Ingram Receives Guests

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By ALICE A. DUNNIGAN
For Associated Negro Press

Afro American

Baltimore Md.

(Second in a series of articles on the visit to the Ingram family in Georgia by a delegation from the National Committee to Free the Ingram Family.)

AUGUSTA, Ga.—As the three car caravan rolled along the graveled driveway, winding its way across the spacious, well-kept, grassy lawn toward the group of white framed, rectangler buildings, it was greeted by a dignified looking lady of medium height and weight, wearing a crisp, starched, pink print, cotton dress which accentuated her soft, brown, velvety complexion, and the glossy black hair becomingly arranged in a pompadour across the front, with the back hanging in loose curls around the lobe of the ear and the nape of the neck.

This attractive lady stepped forward and extended a hand of welcome to the guests as they climed from the automobiles. The spokesman introduced the group to this "matron-like" lady as being a delegation from the National Committee to Free the Ingram Family, and expressed their desire to see Mrs. Ingram.

Almost everyone gasped in amazement, when the gracious lady calmly replied, "I'm Mrs. Ingram."

Sat 4-23-49

As though they could hardly believe their ears, practically the entire group asked in concert, as if to reassure themselves, "Are you Mrs. Ingram?"

"Yes mam" was the humble reply.

Perfect Hostess

With the aplomb of a perfect hostess, Mrs. Ingram moved over toward a white plank bench beneath a spreading fig tree and invited her guests to be seated. "Although this bench might be a little dirty" she added as she ran her fingers across the slated seat, looking at them to determine if the bench was too soiled for her friends to sit on.

The women of the group seated themselves, leaving space in the center of the bench for their honored hostess. Talking in turns, they explained to Mrs. Ingram how the National Committee was formed for the purpose of trying to obtain her freedom.

"We want you to know," said one of the ladies, "that women all over America, whether white or colored, are in sympathy with you and are willing to pool their efforts in an attempt to win your freedom. As a first step, they explained, they plan to present to President Truman on Mother's Day a petition bearing the signatures of a million women requesting that he take steps to have her parolled. They further plan to send like petitions to the Attorney General of the United States, to the Governor of Georgia, and to the Georgia Pardon and Parole Board. They also plan to call upon city councils, State Legislatures and the Congress of the United States to pass resolutions asking for your freedom, and finally to carry the case before the United Nations Council on Human Rights.

When they asked Mrs. Ingram if there was anything she would like for them to do for her now, she replied that all she wanted was her freedom. "Just try to get me out of here so that I can go home to my little children" was her only request.

Because it was an extremely chilly day, and Mrs. Ingram sat there wearing a short-sleeved cotton dress without a coat, one of the ladies asked if she wasn't cold. When she replied positively adding that she had no coat one of the ladies who was wearing both a suit and a top coat, took off the topper and placed it around Mrs. Ingram's shoulders.

No Coat

"The prison supplies us with dresses, such as this one" she said as she pointed to her pink cotton frock," but they do not furnish a coat. My daughter brought me a sweater and that is the only wrap I have had this winter."

She told the delegation that she was not permitted to accept clothing from the outside, that someone had sent her some clothes, but she had to return them. She was allowed to buy extra food she said, if she had the money. She does not like the type of food which they served at the prison, she added. With this statement the women began to place dollar bills in her hand, until within a period of a minute or so she had received $15.

Mrs. Ingram said her health was declining because of the worry which she had suffered, her heart often gives her trouble. When she asked the prison officials for some medicine to alliviate this suffering she had been told that if she wanted medicine she would have to buy it.

The 41-year-old Rosa Lee Ingram and her two sons, Wallace, age 18, and Sammie Lee, age 15, are doing life sentences in Georgia prisons for the murder of John E. Stratford on November 4, 1947. The 66-year-old Stratford and the Ingram family were both tennants on the same farm near Ellaville, Ga. According to reports Stratford had held a grudge against Mrs. Ingram because she had continually refused to accept the affections which he had constantly attempted to force upon her.

It was only three months after the death of her husband when Stratford, in an attempt to get even with the widowed woman, is alleged to have armed himself with a rifle intent on killing Mrs. Ingram's mule and pigs which he said had strayed across the line on the portion of the farm which he was cultivating. When Mrs. Ingram attempted to retrieve the stock, Stratford protested, and an argument ensued which resulted in a fight. When the white tenant farmer struck Mrs. Ingram with the butt of his rifle inflicting a bloody wound, her three sons came to her rescue. In the struggle Stratford was struck on the head with a hammer causing his death.

Sat 4-23-49

This mother of 12 children was carted off to jail together with the three oldest boys, leaving the rest of the little children, one of which was only 17-months old, in the farm house alone.

Because Mrs. Ingram was unabled to employ a lawyer, the courts appointed one, and the trial was railroaded through the courts with an all white jury three months after the arrest. On February 3, 1948 the Ingrams were charged with first-degree murder and she and two sons were sentenced to execution on February 27, the other son was cleared of the charges. The NAACP stepped into the case and after some skilled legal maneuvering the sentences were changed from death to life imprisonment, and the three were sent to the Reidsville State prison to begin their sentences.

Last December, Mrs. Ingram was only 17-months old, in the Richmond County Almshouse, near Augusta, Ga. It was here that she was visited on Sunday April 3, by this delegation from New York, Washington, Atlanta and Augusta.

Here Mrs. Ingram is not confined behind bars, but is at liberty to go from building to building on this county farm, to care for the sick inmates. Eighteen trusted colored prisoners, 14 women, and four men, have been brought to this almshouse for the purpose of doing work and caring for the poor whites who are housed there. It was beceuase Mrs. Ingram's duties carry her from house to house through all kinds of weather that she had earlier mentioned the need for a coat.

It was while Mrs. Ingram sat there pleading with this group of women to please try to obtain her freedom, that Mrs. Eloise Stafford, a white Virginian who is now residing in Atlanta, burst in tears as though the weight of injustices done colored people by her southern forefathers now rested upon her shoulders. Tears streamed down the cheeks of some members of the delgation, others dabbed their eyes with their handkerchiefs, but Mrs. Ingram showed no signs of emotion as she sat there calm and composed.

The poise and control of this woman gave courage to the women who had gone to Georgia for the purpose of giving her consolation.

Sat 4-23-49

At the close of the interview, Dr. Gene Weltfish, professor of anthropology at Columbia University, who was a member of the delegation, planted a kiss upon the cheek of Mrs. Ingram. Others followed suit until the lip-stick marks on Mrs. Ingram's jaw gave work quilt.
her face the appearance of a patchwork quilt.

The warden and three guards stood at a considerable distance away from this party close enough to keep an eye on the prisoner, but making no attempt to hear the conversation. The delegation expressed its appreciation to the prison officials for this courtesy and assured them that it was their purpose to try to get Mrs. Ingram free. The warden was very polite to the group and assured them that Mrs. Ingram was one of their best prisoners, and that she was in the best place that she could be in the State. He told the group that it was not his priviledge to argue cases but only to keep the prisoners, which they sent to him. "If there were no crimes, we would need no places like this" he added.

The prison officials obligingly suspended the rules of Georgia prison to receive this delegation. It is the rule in the State of Georgia that prisoners be visited only by relatives and their attorney, between the hours of two and three on Sundays. This delegation was permitted to visit Mrs. Ingram at 10:30 a.m.

Sat 4-23-49

Ga. Jail Bans Women Visitors

Free 130

Afro American

ATLANTA, Ga.—A committee of nationally-prominent women, who came from New York City, Thursday, to visit with Mrs. Rosa L. Ingram in her cell in the Alms House, here, Thursday, found admittance refused them.

Sat 4-9-49

J. B. Hatchett, assistant director of the Board of Correction, said the only visitors normally allowed were members of immediate families and attorneys. He refused to make the New York delegation an exception.

Baltimore Md.

Visit Opened Drive

The women, who were delegated by the National Free the Ingram committee to make the trip, opened the all-out national drive to aid the imprisoned family. Mrs. Ingram and two sons, 14 and 16, have been given life on charges connected with the death of a white farmer.

The women in the committee were Mrs. Mary Church Terrell, Mrs. Ada B. Jackson, Brooklyn; Mrs. Teresa Robinson, Washington, D.C.; the national grand director of the civil liberties comcommittee of the daughter Elks; Mrs. Rosa B. Locker, New York; Miss Maude A. White, national administrative secretary of Free the Ingrams committee; Dr. Jean Weltfish, a professor of anthropology at Columbia University and co-author of "Races of Mankind."

Suffers Second Heart Attack

Medical Examination Urged for Mrs. Ingram

Sat-1-22-49- Pittsburg Courier

Pittsburg Pennsylvania

By ROBERT M. RATCLIFFE

(Courier News Editor)

AMERICUS, Ga.—The Pittsburgh Courier this week called on the national office of the NAACP to order a thorough medical examination of Mrs. Rosa Lee Ingram, widowed mother of fourteen children who is serving a life sentence in a Georgia prison camp for the self-defense slaying of a white tenant farmer.

NEW YORK—Roy Wilkins, assistant executive secretary of the national office of the NAACP, told The Courier Monday that his office would act immediately to make arrangements for Mrs. Ingram to undergo a thorough physical examination.

Mrs. Ingram has suffered a second heart attack since her arrest in November, 1947, but despite her illness, she is forced to work as any other prisoner at the Georgia prison camp located out from Augusta.

In a letter to her daughter, Mrs. Geneva Rushin, who lives twelve miles from here in a shack on a farm, Mrs. Ingram wrote:

"I'm not able to be working. My heart still bothers me. I'm afraid, one of these days, I'll just drop, but they make me work here every day."

Two of Mrs. Ingram's sons, Sammie Lee and Wallace, also are serving life sentences for the self-defense slaying. The boys are imprisoned in a camp out from Reidsville, Ga.

STILL DAZED

Mrs. Ingram is still dazed. The graying, 41-year-old widow doesn't quite understand what has happened to her. "Why did they send me here?" she continues to ask.

Sat-1-22-49

Atty. A. T. Walden of Atlanta, chief counsel in the Ingram case, assured me last week that new steps will be taken in a few days in an effort to obtain freedom for the Ingrams.

13c

The case has hit a bottleneck, and there is no doubt about that, but it is understood that Attorney Walden will file a petition in a few days, possibly in a Georgia Court. This petition, if filed, is expected to attack the jury system in Georgia.

No Negroes were called for jury service during the Ingram trial, and it is very likely that Attorney Walden will seek a new trial for the Ingrams on the grounds that Negroes are excluded from jury service in the State, and especially in the county in which the Ingrams were tried.

NEED TESTIMONY

Attorney Walden may have difficulty getting Negroes to testify, once the petition is filed, but he always can subpoena State records and use them as evidence.

After their death sentences were commuted to life sentences, the Ingrams were moved from the county jail in Macon and sent back to the Ellaville jail, scene of the trial.

Later they were sent to the State prison in Reidsville. The boys were kept there, but Mrs. Ingram was transferred to the county camp near Augusta.

The Ingram story dates back to August of 1947 when Mrs. Ingram became a widow. Forced to take over the duties of her sharecropper farm, she said she was confronted by John E. Stratford, white sharecropper. He tried to make her his mistress, she said.

Stratford was killed the following Nov. 4 when he advanced on the Ingrams in a country field. Mrs. Ingram, Wallace and Sammie Lee were given a hasty trial and sentenced to the electric chair. Later, the death sentence was commuted to life imprisonment.

Sat-1-22-49

Ky. Clerics Deny Pastor's Claim of Aid for Ingrams

13c

The Afro American

Baltimore, Md.

Rev. Delk States He Was Misquoted on Color Angle; Farm Site Not for Sale, Owner Says

Sat. 1-8-49

HOPKINSVILLE, Ky. (ANP)—Ministers of his race denied the Rev. James Logan Delk's statement last week, promising aid to the Ingram family now serving life sentences in a Georgia prison. Members of the Hopkinsville Ministerial Association said that the Rev. Mr. Delk was not a member of their group.

"We know nothing about Mr. Delk's plea except what we have read in the newspapers," Dr. William P. Thurman, president, related.

His statement referred to a promise by the Rev. Mr. Delk that colored and white churches here would give the Ingrams a 170-acre farm free for five years if they are paroled. He spoke in defense of the Ingrams before the Georgia Pardon and Parole Board.

Says He Was Misquoted

The Ingrams, Mrs. Rosa L. Ingram, and two teen-age sons, were sentenced last year to life for the alleged murder of a white farmer, John E. Stafford, 66. The Rev. Mr. Delk called their conviction "a great miscarriage of justice."

From Atlanta, the Rev. Mr. Delk said he had been misquoted on "white" churches. He explained, "I said five Baptist and two Methodist Churches, all colored, in Hopkinsville would help provide the farm." Sat.

Farm Site Unavailable

The proposed farm site, however, may also prove unobtainable. Its owner, James G. Durham, night police chief, said, "That's news to me. I haven't talked with Delk or anyone else about the sale of my farm." 1-8-49

The Rev. Mr. Delk added that he did ask the aid of the Ministerial Association. He pastors a Church of God in Christ of an interracial congregation. The national church group is headed by a bishop in Memphis.

This Is the Georgia Way:

Rosa Lee Ingram (Negro) Was Convicted; William 'Spud' Howell (White) Was Freed

Pittsburg Courier

13c

Pittsburg Pa

NEW YORK — The sharp contrast which exists in the operation of justice for Negro and white citizens in the State of Georgia was pointed out by Thurgood Marshall, special counsel for the NAACP, in a statement commenting on the speedy acquittal last week of William L. Howell, a white Georgian charged with participating in the lynching of Robert Mallard.

Sat-1-22-49

Comparing Howell's acquqittal with the "Georgia justice" which last year convicted Mrs. Rosa Lee Ingram in the self-defense slaying of a white neighbor, Mr. Marshall stated: "These two cases taken together completely refute any possible argument for leaving the question of the enforcement of Negroes' rights to 'Georgia justice.' If there be any doubt in anyone's mind, he needs only to look to the most recent actions of Governor Talmadge in his determination to re-establish the poll tax in Georgia and to enact registration laws which would disfranchise most of the Negroes in Georgia."

Stressing the fact that the NAACP will continue with renewed intensity its drive for enactment of a Federal anti-lynch law, Mrs. Marshall asserted that the indictment of members of mobs followed by their prompt release by juries has "one purpose only—to furnish the basis for the fallacious argument that the South is solving it own problems.

"The Mallard case demonstrates once again," continued Mr. Marshall, "that the evil inherent in lynching still exists. Prospective lynchers still know that their only possible punishment will come at the hands of a jury 'of their peers,' which in this case meant a jury composed of individuals whose minds were equally contaminated and who claimed to give a fair trial in a case where at least two of the jury testified under oath that they would not believe the complaining witness."

13c

Mr. Marshall expressed his interest in seeing "what possible ingenious explanation can be made by the American representatives in the United Nations Assembly when questioned as to justice, fair play and the protection of civil rights for Negroes in this country in light of the Mallard and Ingram cases." Sat-1-22-49

Atlanta Georgia

Plan Pilgrimage To Prison Farm For Interview

Sun. 4-3-49

13c

BY MARION E. JACKSON

A move to free Mrs. Rosa Lee Ingram gained impetus Saturday when an interracial group of women comprising "The Committee To Free The Ingrams" visited the home of the Ingrams near Americus to study the plight of her children before in inerview with her at the Richard County Prison, where she is under life sentence in connection with the alleged self-defense murder of John Ethron Stratford, an aged white farmer of Schley County.

A visit to the scene of the internationally-publicized slaying of a 72 year-old white farmer and a talk with Mrs. Ingram will be a dramatic preulde to a campaign to secure a million signatures on a petition which will be addressed to Gov. Herman Talmadge and the Georgia Pardon and Parloes Board.

Sun. 4-3-49

The Chairman of the Committee is Mrs. Rosa Church Terrell of Washington, D. C. Most of the organizations represented have headquarters in New York City or Washington, D. C. Mrs. Therese Robinson of New York City said the group represented "a cross-section of all women organizations in the United States."

13c

LONELY CORNFIELD

The group is seeking to free Mrs. Ingram who allegedly killed Stratford in a lonely cornfield in Southwest Georgia in what her defense attorneys termed "a continuous struggle." She was sentenced to the electric chair after being convicted, indicted and sentenced within a three-day period. This action brought national censure on Georgia, and Judge W. N. Harper of Americus commuted the sentenced to life imprisonment.

Sun. 4-3-49

Since that time national organizations have made the case a 'cause celebre" and the "Committee To Free The Ingrams' is an outgrowth of the case in which Mrs. Ingram was convicted along with her three sons. One was subsequently released.

NATIONAL WOMEN

Among the group are Mrs. Ada Jackson, a member of the American Labor Party in New York, who is representing the Brooklyn Interracial Committee; Mrs. Rosa Blocker, Manhattan Dvision of Republican Women; Mrs. Maude White, former trade union organizer for the CIO and AFL; Mrs. Alice Dunnigan, White House corresponddent for the American Negro Press; Mrs. Herman Rich and Mrs. Kontax of the People's Progressive Party; Mrs. W. A. Scott and Mrs. Geneva Haugabrooks representing Georgia Women clubs.

13c

A Columbia University professor of Anthropology joined the group in Atlanta Saturday. Her name was not disclosed.

Sun. 4-3-49

George Murphy, a former commander of the United Negro and Allied Veterans, and a member of the National Elks Civil Liberties Committee accompained the group to Atlanta.

LENGTHY CONFAB

Members of the group held a lengthy conference Friday with Warren Cochran Butler Street Y. M. C. A. executive; John Wesley Dobbs, Grand Master of the Prince Hall Masons of Georgia, and National Republican political figure; and Atty. Austin T. Walden, legal counsel for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, who is the only lawyer presently retained in the Ingram Case.

Atty. Walden Friday spiked plans by the group for a national fund-raising drive with "there is no furthur need of any public solicitation of funds for the Ingram Family."

The warden of the Richmond County Prison farm near Augusta, under instructions from the Georgia Board of Corrections, has been instructed to permit the committee to see Mrs. Ingram without restrictions.

WOMEN PUSH PLANS TO FREE INGRAMS

Atlanta Daily World

13c

By MARION E. JACKSON

Atty. A. T. Walden, legal counsel for the NAACP in the nationally-famous Ingram Case, told representatives of "The Committee To Free The Ingrams" that there is "no further ~~need of any public solicitation~~ of funds for the Ingram family."

Atlanta Georgia

This statement was made to a group of women representing several national women organizations who gathered in Atlanta Friday at the Butler Street YMCA to push plans for circulating a petition to free Mrs. Ingram which will bear more than a million signatures. Mrs. Ingram is under life sentence at the Richmond County prison farm, near Augusta, in connection with the slaying of John Ethron Stratford in Schley County, Ga.

Atty. Walden surprised the group in hinting a new move through the courts to free Mrs. Ingram in stating "We think we have discovered an area in which we can go into the Federal Courts, but we must be certain to lay a legal basis for a review by the Supreme Court."

GROUP CAUTIONED

The group was cautioned "against rumors and half-truths which tell that nothing is being done for Mrs. Ingram's family."

He told of plans to build a new home for the Ingrams 14 miles South of Americus, but in another county.

Sat. 4-2-49

"The only reason that the house had not been constructed earlier Mrs. Ingram did not want it there. However, her eldest daughter did not wish to leave—we tried hard to get her to go to Americus or Atlanta. Since she was the only one responsible for the children we had to yield to her wishes."

Mrs. Therese L. Robinson acted as chairman of the committee due to the absence of the Permanent Chairman, Mrs. Rosa Church Terrell who is sick in Washington, D, C.

Others present for the meeting were Mrs. Ada Jackson, a member of the American Labor Party in New York, who is representing the Brooklyn Interracial Committee:; Mrs. Rosa Blocker, Manhattan Division of Republican Women; Mrs. Maude White, Trade Union Organizer for the CIO and AFL; Mrs. Alice Dunnigan, White House correspondent for the Associated Negro Press; Mrs. Herman Rich and Mrs. Kontax of the Progressive Party. Mrs. W. A. Scott represented Georgia Women's Clubs along with Mrs. Geneva Haugabrooks.

George Murphy represented J. Finley Wilson of the National Elks Lodge. Also present were J. Wesley Dobbs and Warren Cochrane, of the Georgia Citizens Defense Committee.

Mr. Murphy is on leave from his post as Commander of the United Negro and Allied Veterans. He has been prominent in the activities of the Progressive Party.

DISCOURAGES PETITION

Atty. Walden discouraged the idea of a petition addressed to President Truman. He said such a move would have small effect on the attitudes of groups here in Georgia who might have influence on releasing the Ingrams from prison.

Mrs. Robinson said the Committee was a "cross-section of all women organizations . . . and we want to see the Ingrams free."

Mrs. Ada Jackson said she was interested in "What has happened and what is happening to Negro women in the South. In the South many barriers separate women from democracy. What women face here in Georgia is only a part of their worldwide struggle for freedom."

The group from New York said they paid their own expenses here. They plan to visit the Ingrams' home near Americus then continue on to Augusta, where they plan to visit Mrs. Ingram in prison.

The women's committee hopes to arrange an interview with Gov. Herman Talmadge in their quest for freedom for Mrs. Ingram.

Sat. 4-2-49

The Committee decided to spearheard a drive among women's organizations to secure a petition asking Gov. Herman Talmadge and the Georgia Parden and Parole Board to free Mrs. Ingram, to try and get city councils, state legislatures and Congress to pass resolutions urging the freeing of the Ingrams, and to put the case of the Ingrams before the Human Rights Congress which meets in April.

Ingram Committee Grows; To Observe Ingram Sunday

13c

Atlanta Daily World

Atlanta Ga.

NEW YORK — Support for the movement to free the Ingrams is increasing with new chapters, sponsors and hundreds of petitions, the National Committee to Free the Ingrams said yesterday.

Mrs. Rosa Lee Ingram, 41-year-old Georgia Negro mother of twelve and two of her teen age sons are serving life sentences for the self defense slaying of a white farmer who molested her.

Thur. 5-12-49

Mrs. Maude White Katz, secretary of the Committee, announced new chapters in Erie, Philadelphia, and Pittsburgh, Pa.; Winston-Salem, N. C., Brooklyn College, Bridgeport, Connecticut and Washington, D. C.

"Over 350 Negro and white leaders throughout the nation are sponsoring the "Committee," Mrs. Katz said.

SEEK ONE MILLION SIGNATURE

The main campaign of the Committee is the collection of a million signatures on petitions, asking President Truman to effect the freedom of the Ingrams.

13c

"These are coming in by the hundreds," Mrs. Katz said. "But we are urging and asking the information of more and more committees in unions, shops, churches, social clubs civic groups, and all other organizations to secure a million signatures by May 30, Memorial Day."

"Only the mass voice of a great host of outraged American Negro family, persecuted because they dared to protect their home."

Mrs. Katz said that the Committee has written about 35 Negro religious denominational leaders thru out the country, asking them to set aside a Sunday in May as "Ingram Sunday."

Thur. 5-12-49

Expressions of support have come from such widely diversified sources, she said, as an official of the Associated Press, Radio Division, the CIO Food, Tobacco and Agricultural Workers; Moranda Smith, Velma Hopkins and Viola Brown, are active in the campaign.

13c 1949

Legal Sentence (Illinois)

GI GETS DEATH SENTENCE

Afro American

CHICAGO—Brig. Gen. Crump Garvin, commanding general in Yokohama, Japan, will review soon the case of Pfc. James W. Harris, 20, of this city who was sentenced to death in Tokyo for slaying a Japanese girl, Shimako Mitsuhashi, 22. last Jan. 5. 3-14-49

Accomplice Is Given Death In Fatal Holdup At Store

Courier-Journal
Louisville Kentucky
13c

Jake P. Craft, 21, Present At Time Zimmerman Slain

Tues-2-8-49

A Criminal Court jury yesterday sentenced a 21-year-old man to death in the electric chair for taking part in an armed robbery.

The defendant, Jake President Craft, Negro, was present at the holdup of a liquor store at 807 S. Eighth, when Milton Zimmerman, the clerk robbed, was killed with a shotgun. He was charged with being an accessory to armed robbery.

Craft's defense was that he entered the store only to buy cigarettes and didn't know that his companion, Milton Shelkels, who was carrying the weapon, planned to commit robbery. But he admitted that he looted the till after Zimmerman was killed.

Gun Is Identified.

Craft and Shelkels were named in one indictment. Yesterday Shelkels' trial was set for February 22.

The robbery took place December 23. Testimony of arresting officers and others developed these facts:

Craft and Shelkels were out together until 3 a.m. December 23 and spent the remainder of the night in Craft's room.

Craft's landlord missed his shotgun, which was identified in court as the one which killed Zimmerman.

Shortly after the two men entered the store, Zimmerman was killed and stripped of his wallet and a wedding ring, and about $150 was taken from the cash register.

2 Captured During Flight.

Craft admitted taking the money, but denied taking the ring, which detectives testified was found on him. It was identified in court by Zimmerman's widow, who blinked back tears as she testified.

Craft and Shelkels were captured shortly after the robbery. They were trying to escape from the neighborhood in a taxicab. A blackjack which detectives said was found on Craft was produced in court. He testified he found it at the liquor store. Julius Wishnia, manager of the store, testified that no blackjack was kept there, and Zimmerman didn't own one.

Reference to the blackjack caused an emotional outburst by Zimmerman's relatives during defense closing arguments. Defense attorney John Fowler was telling the jury "there is no conclusive evidence that this blackjack was not owned by Zimmerman," when two of the victim's sisters leaped to their feet.

"You can't say that. You're talking about my brother," cried Mrs. Leon Goldstein.

Plea for Dismissal Refused.

Tues-2-8-49

"You should be ashamed to talk that way about my brother," said Mrs. David Myers.

When order had been restored, Judge Loraine Mix denied Fowler's motion that the jury be dismissed.

Craft explained Shelkels was carrying the shotgun because "we were going hunting." He admitted that after the shooting he dragged Zimmerman into a back room and later sold a customer a pint of gin.

"When I made change for him, I decided to take the money in the cash register," he testified.

When the two were arrested, police took from them six bottles of liquor which were identified as having come from the store.

The jury deliberated 2 hours—about the same length of time as was required to present the evidence. It also required 2 hours to get a jury.

Defense attorneys Fowler and James A. Hubbs, appointed by the court, called Shelkels to the witness stand. After being advised of his constitutional rights by Judge Mix, Shelkels decided not to testify.

Members of the jury were William Cloud, Valley Station; Albert J. Ficks, 4122 Larkwood; John Treitz, 2708 Brownsboro Road; Richard Bishoff, 179 Bellaire; Hugh E. Stevens, 3334 Schneiter; L. M. Kelly, 3310 Algonquin Parkway; Louis Schloemer, 264 Pope; John M. Hennessy, 1717 Edenside; Thomas H. Collins, 4214 Larkwood; Howard Kohnen, 1418 Larchmont; G. T. Kirby, Lyndon, and B. C. Charlton, 1441 Olive.

Slayer Slated to Die In Chair Tomorrow

Courier-Journal
Louisville Ky

Frankfort, Ky., Jan. 26 (AP)—Charlie Pool, 4[illegible], a Negro tenant farmer convicted of slaying a white woman in Christian County, is due to die in the electric chair at Eddyville Penitentiary early Friday.

Thurs. 1-27-49

Mrs. Virginia F. Harris, 27, wife of another tenant on the place, was beaten to death in a barn where she had been milking.

2d Youth Gets Death Penalty In Holdup Here

Jury Out 20 Minutes In Shekels' Trial

Courier-Journal
Louisville Ky

Eighteen-year-old Alfred Shelkels yesterday was sentenced to death in the electric chair in the holdup-slaying of a liquor-store clerk here last December 23.

Shelkels was the second Negro youth given the death penalty on an armed-robbery charge in the case. His buddy, Jake Craft, 20, was sentenced two weeks ago. They were arrested in a taxicab after they shot Milton Zimmerman, 29, clerk at a liquor store at 90[illegible] S. Eighth. They had taken his wallet and wedding band along with whisky and $110.45.

Wed. 2-23-49

The Criminal Court jury in Shelkels' case deliberated 20 minutes. During that time they examined the shotgun used in the robbery.

Says It Was Accidental.

Shelkels had told the jury he was joking when he pointed the gun at Zimmerman, telling him: "This is a holdup." He said the gun went off accidentally. However, Carl Ousley, the prosecutor, said the gun was hard to fire. He had Jurors Charles W. Cooper, 840 S. 31st, and C. F. Wallace, 913 S. Fourth, try it out during his argument.

"That gun couldn't be fired unless somebody wanted to," Ousley argued. "Take it with you to your jury room and see how hard it is to shoot."

Shelkels, of 522 W. Oak rear, got only the wallet from the wounded Zimmerman after Craft dragged him to a back room in the store. They both walked out of the store, ran from the neighborhood, and called the cab in which police caught them later.

Attorney James Hubbs, defending Shelkels, said no robbery had been planned by the two youths.

'Tried to Hide Nothing.'

"This boy has tried to hide nothing," he said. "He told you the truth. He helped the police. All he asked today is something he's never had in his life—a little mercy."

Criminal Court Judge Loraine Mix was out of his office when the jury brought in its verdict. Shelkels was brought in from the holdover, then returned to wait for the judge to take the verdict. He spent the long moments before he was brought back into court at prayer. Then, as Criminal Court Clerk Fred Coffee trailed out the words, "and fix his punishment at death," Shelkels blinked his eyes hard several times.

Wed. 2-23-49

Other members of the jury: H. H. Haley, 907 Thornberry; Arthur McGuffin, 903 Whitney; Arnold Lewis, 127 Coral; James A. Kern, 3505 W. Broadway; J. Bentley, 2604 Dixie Highway; James Mattingly, 2313 Dixdale; James W. Hughes, 1410 Earl; Chester Terry, 434 E. Jefferson; G. O. Meagle, 512 Beecher, and William A. Menagh, 3012 Beaumont Road.

All-Negro Jury Finds Negro Guilty as Slayer

Courier-Journal

Frankfort, Ky., Sept. 13 (AP)—George Adams, first Negro to be tried here by 12 of his own race, got a three-year sentence today for killing a white man.

The jury, with Ben Spencer, a cobbler, as its foreman, deliberated about 4 hours before it agreed on conviction of voluntary manslaughter and a three-year term.

Courier-Journal

Adams, about 50, claimed self-defense in the fatal shooting at dusk April 4 of Ransom Maddox, and the wounding of his brother, Mitchell Maddox.

Wed. 9-14-49

The brothers had gone to a barn on the farm where Adams worked to arrange for him to train a horse. A quarrel followed while they were drinking.

Philip P. Ardery of counsel for Adams replied, "I don't know yet," when asked whether he will appeal.

Commonwealth's Attorney James P. Hanrahan said the charge against Adams of shooting and wounding Mitchell Maddox will go over until the January term of court.

12c

Courier-Journal Photo.

LISTENING as a jury's verdict sentencing him to death was read is Jake President Craft, convicted as accessory to the armed robbery which cost the life of Milton Zimmerman. The widow of the victim is seated behind Craft.

Victim Marked for Death Cheats Chair by Suicide

Pittsburgh Courier

AMITE, La.—Tangipahoa Parish whites were denied their Roman holiday Friday to witness the scheduled first electrocution in parish history, when the 32-year-old tragic figure, marked as the sacrifice, cheated the death chair by the matter of a few hours with an early morning suicide. Pittsburgh, Pa

In another of the South's numerous circumstantial evidence cases where men's lives are often snuffed out upon the altar of race prejudice, L. C. Lloyd was convicted and sentenced to die for the alleged rape of a white woman. Sat-3-19-49

Four guards were on duty in the wee hours of the morning Lloyd was to have walked "the last mile," to prevent the prisoner from making a desperate bid for freedom or otherwise delaying the execution. One of the guards was asleep in Lloyd's cell. A guard on the outside suddenly heard the thud of a body and went to the doomed man's darkened cell with a flashlight. Lloyd was found in a sitting position against a barred window.

Coroner L. L. Ricks said the prisoner died of a broken neck suffered in a suicide jump or fall from a bunk in his cell in the parish jail.

Lloyd had been convicted of attacking a 66-year-old white woman at Independence, La., in April, 1948.

The State's portable electric chair had been set up for carrying out the execution shortly after the noon hour, and all plans had been completed.

A previous suicide plan by Lloyd was disclosed when Sheriff Tom Sanders said a hidden razor blade was found in a package of cigarettes which was removed from the prisoner's cell. Sat-3-19-49

ELECTRIC CHAIR KILLS LOUISIANA MURDERERS

The Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tenn.

Negroes Pay For Slaying Of Former Navy Man

Sat 5-21-49

OPELOUSAS, La., May 20.—(AP)—Two negroes were electrocuted here Friday for the murder of a former naval officer.

Matthew Cook, 24, and his brother, Joseph Cook, 25, went to the chair calmly as about 600 persons watched.

Sheriff Clayton Guilbeau said 300 saw Matthew Cook go to the chair and another 300 witnessed the death of Joseph some 45 minutes later. Sat 5-21-49.

Both died for the murder of Bernard Couvillion on a levee near Melville, La., last July 11. Couvillion's woman companion was criminally assaulted.

The brothers were the first ever electrocuted in St. Landry Parish.

Sheriff Guilbeau said Joseph admitted committing an unsolved murder eight years ago. The admission was made after the date for his execution was fixed by Governor Long.

Joseph told the sheriff he killed 70-year-old John Wyatt as he attempted to rob the aged man. The sheriff said Joseph told of beating the man with a shotgun and an ax, and then stabbing him with a knife.

Wyatt was a foreman on the Les Warden farm near Melville.

The sheriff said Joseph insisted he had killed Wyatt without the knowledge or aid of anyone. Sat 5-21-49

Both negroes spent their last day in prayer with ministers.

13c 1949 Legal Sentence (Maryland)

Thin Evidence Gets Youth Life

(13c) 1 Sat

Jailed in Slaying of Poultry Dealer

Afro-American

INNOCENT PLEA

Baltimore Md

Trapped by Items Found in His Car

Sat 1-1-49

SALISBURY — Despite the fact that no motive for the crime was established and that doubt exists as to whether the two men knew each other even by sight, Lawrence H. Dirickson, 20, was given a life term, Wednesday, for the slaying of a white poultry dealer.

Dirickson was immediately transferred to the State penitentiary in Baltimore to serve the sentence for the ambush shooting on Nov. 1 of Clarence Jones of Newark, Md.

Following a three-day trial during which only circumstantial evidence was presented to link Dirickson with the crime, the sentence was pronounced, by First Judicial Circuit Judges Levin C Bailey, W. Laird Henry Jr. and Edmond H. Johnson after a 45-minute deliberation.

Purely Circumstantial

Judge Bailey said the life term rather than the death sentence was decided upon because the case was based purely on circumstantial evidence.

Stoutly maintaining his innocence, Dirickson, a farm worker, contended that he was home eating lunch when the shooting occurred. He was arrested at his home asleep the morning after Jones was shot.

Emphasizing the fact that no motive was proved, the defense attorney, Hamilton P. Fox Jr., pointed out that there was no evidence of malice between the two men.

No Appeal Planned

Jones at one time served fish in the Berlin, Md., area where Dirickson lived, Mr. Fox said, but it is doubtful whether either of them would have recognized the other. However, he said, no appeal of the case is planned at this time.

Testimony was that the victim and his son-in-law, Edward Early were riding along a lonely road when they spied a wrench and pistol in the pathway.

When Jones got out of the truck to look at the articles, he was struck by two rifle shots fired from behind some bushes, Early testified.

He said that when he returned to the scene with help for the fatally wounded man, the articles had disappeared from the truck where Jones had dropped them.

Found in Dirickson's Car

Police testified that they found the articles later in Dirickson's automobile. His attorney argued that it was possible that someone else placed them there because the car was left unlocked.

Dirickson said he had loaned a rifle, which State's witnesses testified fired the fatal bullet, to a friend, Jack Purnell on the day of the shooting. Purnell denied this.

Godfrey Child, special prosecutor of Pocomoke City, admitted that no motive for the crime was proved but, contended that that would be only cumulative evidence.

Sat-1-1-49

Dirickson is one of seven children of Mr. and Mrs. Cyrus Dirickson, who live near Berlin, Md., in Worchester County, but the trial was removed to Wicomico County Circuit Court by a change of venue.

Shot White Planter

Seek to Stay Execution of Miss. Slayer

Pittsburg Courier

Pittsburg Pa

CLARKSDALE, Miss.—A 2 year-old man who killed a white plantation manager in self-defense was convicted here Wednesday of murder and sentenced to die in the electric chair. His execution was set for March 11.

However, attorneys for the condemned man, William Bell, announced immediately after the conviction that they would appeal the case to the State Supreme Court.

(13C)

ALL-WHITE JURY

The all-white Coahoma County jury "deliberated" over night before returning its verdict to Judge Ed. H. Green. The case was received by the jury at 3:57 P. M., Tuesday, and it reported to the judge shortly after 9 A. M., Wednesday.

Sat. 2-5-49

Bell was charged with the fatal shooting on Dec. 23 of C. W. Braughton, white plantation manager, who was said to have previously threatened to "kill the n——r (Bell) like a rabbit."

CLAIMS SELF-DEFENSE

The slaying occurred on the King-Anderson plantation near here where Braughton was an overseer. Bell was formerly a farm hand there and had returned to visit in the Negro quarters.

Bell testified that he shot Braughton in self-defense when the armed white man bore down upon him as he, frightened by the overseer's unexpected presence, atempted to escape through the jammed door of a cabin on the plantation.

HAD DEATH THREAT

Bell told the court Braughton had threatened to kill him if he ever caught him on the plantation premises.

NEGRO IS CONVICTED OF SHOTGUN SLAYING

(13C)

Plantation Manager's Killing Brings Death Sentence

Commercial Appeal

EXECUTION SET MARCH 11

Memphis Appeal

By LOIS J. SCHULTZ

Special to The Commercial Appeal

CLARKSDALE, Miss., Jan. 26.—William Bell, 24, negro, was convicted of the fatal shooting of W. C. Broughton, plantation manager, by a jury in Circuit Court Wednesday morning. He was sentenced to die in the electric chair on Friday, March 11.

Thur. 1-27-49

(13C)

The case reached the jury Tuesday afternoon at 4. When no decision had been reached by the jurymen by 5:30, court was adjourned by Judge Ed Green until Wednesday morning. When court opened the jurymen announced they had reached a decision.

Showed No Emotion

Bell declined to make a statement before sentence was pronounced. He showed no emotion when the death penalty was imposed.

Attorneys for Bell declined to state whether or not an appeal would be filed.

Bell is scheduled to pay with his life for the killing of Mr. Broughton on Dec. 23 on the King and Anderson Plantation. The negro claimed on the witness stand that he shot Mr. Broughton in self-defense.

According to Bell, he returned to Coahoma County in 1945 after being discharged from the Army. He said Mr. Broughton ordered him from the plantation and told him if he ever found him on the place again he would kill him.

Bell said he had gone back to the plantation the day before the killing to visit his wife and three children. He said he saw Mr. Broughton at a distance and hid from him.

Tried To Escape

The following morning, Bell said, he went to the home of Louella Mays, a tenant, who lived near Bell's family. He was in the kitchen of the home when he saw Mr. Broughton arrive in a truck, and testified that he tried to escape by the rear door, but the latch jammed. When Mr. Broughton entered the room by another door, he shot him because he believed the plantation manager had come to kill him, he said. Mr. Broughton was armed but witnesses said he did not draw his weapon.

Mr. Broughton was wounded in the chest with a 12-gage shotgun and died within an hour. Bell escaped into the swamps of the Sunflower River and eluded a posse and bloodhounds from the State Farm at Parchman. He managed to cross the Mississippi River and was found several days later at the home of friends, near Helena.

After tear bombs were used, he surrendered to Phillips County and Coanoma officers and was brought back to Mississippi for trial.

The execution will take place in the Coahoma County Jail in the state's portable electric chair, officials said.

The prosecution was conducted by John Crisler, district attorney and Leighton Miller, county attorney. The court appointed Cage Brewer and John Webb to defend Bell.

Thur. 1-27-49

NEGRO DEATH VERDICT UPHELD BY HIGH COURT

The Commercial Appeal

Memphis Tenn

(13C) Eisert

Eddie Patton's Execution Date Is Set For July 1

Tues. 5-24-49

U. S. TRIBUNAL ANSWERED

By KENNETH TOLER

From The Commercial Appeal
Jackson, Mississippi, Bureau

JACKSON, Miss., May 23.—Eddie (Buster) Patton's death sentence for the 1946 slaying of Jim Meadows, Lauderdale County night club operator, Monday was upheld for the second time by the Supreme Court and July 1 set for its execution at Meridian.

Tues. 5-24-49

The original conviction of the negro was set aside last year by the United States Supreme Court because negroes had been excluded from jury service in the county.

Court Cites Precedent

Justice Julian Alexander pointed out that the court had always been diligent in protecting the rights of citizens, regardless of their station, and indirectly answered the United States Supreme Court's reversal decree with reference to negros not bing called on for jury service by stating:

"Long prior to the emergence of causes celebresw hich have been headlined as heralds of a rediscovery of civil rights, this court boldly condemned a purposeful discrimination against negroes in the matter of jury service."

Tues. 5-24-49

"We have never stayed our hand in interposing the barrier of constitutional rights between the forces of vengence or prejudice, which are at times the product of oversensitive social relationships, and the life of its humblest citizen."

Justice Alexander said the court is also concerned with therights of "those citizens over the fresh earth of whose graves the blind striding of hot tempered zeal finds no stumbling in its frenzied rush to the aid of one to whose violent act this new mound is an accusing monument."

Pointing out that less than 2 per cent of the registered voters in Lauderdale County are negroes, yet a larger percentage in proportion was summoned for jury service, the court added:

"Although the figures could readily be magnified into argutmentative material for a charge of discrimination against members of the white race, no such contention is of course made."

Three Negroes On Jury

On the grand jury which indicted Patton the second time, three of the 20 members were negroes. There was one negro on the convicting (petit) jury.

Justice W. G. Roberds wrote the opinion upholding the Hinds County conviction and 12-year sentence given John Ed Ivey, former constable and deputy sheriff of Attala County (Kosciusko), for robbery with firearms. He was charged with hijarking a load of whisky near Bolton, June 26, 1948, and robbing the transport car driver of $360.

A jury trial of the case of Mrs. Mary McNamara Palmer of Coahoma County, against the Clarksdale Hospital and Miss Louise Francis, its superintendent, was ordered by the court in an opinion by Justice Lee Hall. Mrs. Palmer is seeking damages for personal injuries.

(13C)

Justice Hall said the lower court erred in not submitting the case to a jury for decision and for excluding Mrs. Palmer's evidence and directing a verdict for the hospital.

Mrs. Thomas L. Bailey, the state tax collector, was denied recovery of $12,300 from the Southern Bell Telephone Co. as privilege licenses for selling advertisements in directories.

In other decisions, the court:

Confirmed a Neshoba County Chancery Court ruling upholding the supervisors claims to and involved leases of a 16th Section school land tract. A mineral lease was

Tues. 5-24-49

Affirmed transaction between Mrs. Dora Ricks Collins and State Highway Commission for right of way in Grenada County.

Upheld Humphreys County Circuit Court ruling that Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Aycock were not liable for $1000 to the Y. D. Lumber Co. for completion of their home.

Affirmed will of Annie Turner of Lowndes County against an attack by Emmett Bailey.

Ordered new trial in Mrs. Annie Sayle Bailey's suit demanding the rest of her one-third share of her mother's $21,443 estate. Defendant is D. B. Sayle, who won a dismissal in Yalobusha County Chancery Court on grounds the statute of limitations had expired.

Affirmed Yazoo County Chancery Court decision breaking a will signed by G. W. Kirk in favor of George W. Kirk Sr.

ATTRONEYS FOR NEGRO CHARGE COURT ERRED

Eddie (Buster) Patton Faces Death July 1

Appeal

JACKSON, Miss., June 7.—(AP)—Attorneys for Eddie (Buster) Patton Tuesday charged that the State Supreme Court erred when it affirmed the Lauderdale County negro's conviction on murder charges. His execution has been set for

Memphis Tenn.

Patton was convicted of the Feb. 11, 1946 slaying of James Meadows, Meridian night club operator. It was his second conviction. The United States Supreme Court quashed the indictment on which the first trial was based on grounds that negroes had "been systematically excluded from the grand jury lists."

Wed. 6-8-49

The State Supreme Court affirmed the second conviction May 23, ruling that the United States Supreme Court's mandate had been followed. The opinion held there were no grounds for error in the trial judge's charge to the jury, refusal to grant a change of venue or overruling a continuance motion.

(13C)

L. J. Broadway, Patton's attorney, argued in a petition filed by mail with the Supreme Court Tuesday, that the court paid "scant if any attention" to his charge that evidence introduced in the trial was obtained from Patton by "torture." He claimed Patton was beaten, kicked, slapped and blackjacked by investigating officers.

6-8-49

Broadway claimed this deprived the negro of his rights under the 14th Amendment to the Constitution. The amendment says no state shall deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law, nor deny any person equal protection of the law.

The Meridian attorney contended evidence presented at the trial did not establishe Patton's guilt as a murderer. The verdict, he went on, should have been limited to manslaughter or innocent.

Patton admitted killing Meadows, his former employer. He testified it was in self defense during a fight over money he claimed the night club operator owed him.

Miss. Frees Slayer Of White Man

Defender

Chicago Ill.

Sat. 11-26-49

JACKSON, Miss.—William Bell, 25, escaped the death sentence last week when State Supreme Court reversed the Coahoma county courts decision and freed Bell.

Associate Justice L. A. Smith who wrote the controlling opinion which released the man convicted of the murder of white plantation manager G. L. Broughton near Clarksdale, held that the Bell acted in self defense.

Army Veteran Bell, a tenant on the Broughton managed plantation since Bell's discharge in 1945, testified that Broughton had threatened him with "whipping and death" several times.

Bell stated that on the day of the slaying, he had taken refuge in a house after hiding several days from Broughton.

11-26-49

Broughton broke into the house on December 23, 1948, Bell said, and knowing the white man carried a pistol, he shot him in self-defense.

Justice Smith's opinion states, "appellant was entitled to have the direct verdict for which he had asked; and to acquittal on the ground of self-defense."

Judge Issues Statement

13c Legal Sentence N.J.

Prosecutor Had Not Called Him

TRENTON— Counsel for three of the Trenton Six awaiting re-trial for the slaying of William Horner went before Judge Charles P. Hutchinson in County Court here Friday and obtained a statement taken from a mystery witness in the case.

[illegible]

The lawyers, O. John Rogge, William L. Patterson, Edmund Bloch and Solomon Golat, previously had learned that Prosecutor Mario Volpe had taken testimony from Garrett Griswold, who lived and worked with Horner and his wife at the furniture store where Horner was slain on Jan. 27, 1948.

[illegible] Scene Early

Dec. [illegible]-49

Their interest was sharpened because Griswold, who was on the scene shortly after Horner's murder, had been available to the prosecutor during the 43-day trial of six men for the furniture dealer's slaying in the summer of 1948.

They wanted to know what information Griswold had given the prosecutor, particularly since he was not called to testify.

The prosecution, marking time pending possible re-trial of the six men whose death sentences were set aside by the New Jersey Supreme Court, ridiculed the defense contention that Griswold was kept hidden, and produced him in court.

Hurried Away

After the lawyers received a copy of a statement made to the prosecutor's office on June 23, 1948, they attempted to talk with Griswold, but he was whisked away from the court.

The date of Griswold's statement indicated that it was signed 16 days after the beginning of the trial.

In his statement Griswold said that he was 38 and single, and was born and reared in Trenton. He gave his address as 1134 Sewell Ave., Asbury Park, but said that he was an itinerant worker, assisting Horner at intervals, traveling with a circus, and occasionally doing a stint on a farm.

While employed by Horner he slept in the store.

Griswold stated that about two days before Horner was killed he went to Baltimore by bus with the intention of getting a Maryland driver's license. He said that he was barred from getting a New Jersey license because he could not read and write.

The man stated that he stayed at a waterfront hotel in Baltimore, but did not remember its name.

He said that when he returned by bus and announced to a friend that he was unable to get a driver's license, he was told that Horner had been killed that same day.

When he went to the store, Griswold said, he was unable to get in because it was closed.

He stated that a man whom he knew only as Pete, also an occasional worker at the store, told him that the place was barred because of the murder.

Griswold said that he visited Mrs. Horner in a hospital and that she told him that he should not go to the store any more, and repeated this admonition when he saw her later on the streets.

The witness maintained that he left the area and the State after he got his clothing, and returned to Asbury Park a few days before his statement was taken.

His statement said that he recognized the picture of Ralph Cooper, but he did not recall seeing any of the others arrested for the murder at any time.

Trenton Six Face New Trial, But Their Lawyers Are Barred

TRENTON, N. J., Dec. 17—(AP)—Convicted once of murder, six Trenton Negroes, known as "the Trenton Six" Saturday faced a second trial without the services of three lawyers who helped save them from the electric chair.

Mercer County Judge Charles P. Hutchinson Friday ordered the attorneys off the case. The three—hired by the left-wing Civil Rights Congress to defend the Negroes—are former Asst. U. S. Atty. Gen. O. John Rogge, Executive Secretary William L. Patterson of the congress and Emanuel H. Bloch, all of New York.

New [illegible] Age

IN AN EIGHT-PAGE order barring the trio from practicing in his court, Hutchinson said he could no longer endure their "studied discourtesy and contempt for the court." He accused both the attorneys and the congress of unethical practices.

Jan. 12-18-49

Charging that the congress collected from the public "moneys far in excess of those necessary" to finance the defense, he said:

"This situation raises grave doubt as to the real purpose for which these funds were collected and, as far as I have been able to learn there has been no accounting of the funds received or the moneys disbursed."

[illegible] Dec.

He said he had heard reports that collected money was used by the congress for "defense of another case pending about the same time in another jurisdiction." He did not name the other case.

The judge accused Rogge, Patterson and Bloch of violating the American Bar Association's code of ethics.

HUTCHINSON PRESIDED AT the original trial in 1948 of the men whom the congress calls "the Trenton Six." After the jury found the Negroes guilty of slaying 72-year-old William Horner, Trenton storeowner, the judge sentenced all six to die in the electric chair.

However, the State Supreme Court set aside the verdict and ordered a new trial. Rogge, Patterson and Bloch were among the lawyers who successfully argued the appeal.

LAWYERS TO FIGHT TRENTON REMOVAL

Rogge, Patterson and Block Insist on Staying as Counsel in Trial of Six Men

13 N.J.

Asserting that their clients had been "unlawfully sentenced by the same court which now seks to deny them the constitutional right to counsel of their own choosing," the four lawyers for three of the "Trenton six" defendants, three of whom were barred from the case on Friday, issued a joint statement yesterday.

Times

Attacking the decision of Mercer County Judge Charles P. Hutchinson, who accused them of violating the bar's canons of ethics, the lawyers maintained it was "a privilege and duty" to continue in the case.

The statement was signed by O. John Rogge, William L. Patterson and Emanuel H. Block, New York lawyers whose permission to practice in New Jersey was revoked, and Solomon Golat, New Jersey lawyer, who was criticized by the judge but permitted to continue with the case.

Jan. 12-18-4[illegible]

"Our clients insist that we remain as their counsel," it read. "We consider it a privilege and our duty under the canons of ethics to continue to represent them vigorously, and not to permit fear of judicial disfavor or public unpopularity to restrain us from the full discharge of our duty.

Dec. [illegible]-49

"In the performance of our duty we shall take further legal steps during the course of the coming week which we shall announce at the time we take them.

[illegible]-49

"We are not unmindful of the fact that our clients were unlawfully sentenced by the same court which now seeks to deny them the constitutional right to counsel of their own choosing."

Six Innocent Men

Daily Worker - N.Y. N.Y.

13c

PRESIDENT TRUMAN SAYS he wants civil rights for the Negro people.

Well, he has a chance to prove it right now.

He can save the lives of six Negro men who are sitting in the death cells of a New Jersey jail.

These men are becoming famous throughout the world as the "Trenton Six." The case of the Trenton Six is front page news in Paris and London. Committees are forming to send money to pay for the appeal.

PAUL ROBESON

Yet, there is a conspiracy of silence in the press here. America does not yet know of this astounding frameup. Here are the facts:

Wed. 3-2-49

1. An all-white jury in Trenton sentenced six Negroes to die for the murder of William Horner, furniture dealer.

2. There were three eye-witnesses to the crime. Not one of these witnesses identified the Negro victims. **They definitely said they were not the men.** One witness changed her testimony after the prosecutor showed her pictures of the defendants and told her to change her mind.

3. There is a mountain of evidence to show that not one of these men was at the scene of the crime. One was cashing a check miles away. **This was proved.** One accepted a package from a mailman miles away. **This was proved.** One was working in another town. **The employer proved this.** One was at a bank. **The bank confirmed this.** The last was fixing a house. **Six persons saw him and testified as such.**

• • •

BUT THE OFFICIALS OF TRENTON, N. J., and the police department railroaded these men in an atmosphere of hysteria.

13c Wed. 3-2-49

This is another Scottsboro case. It must end the way the Scottsboro case ended—with the reversal of this monstrous frameup. The Civil Rights Congress is fighting this case in the great tradition of human freedom. It points out this as a northern-style lynching—a new-style lynching in which the courts, the judges, the police and the detectives do the work without KKK robes, but with legal murder. The CRC has retained John Rogge and Earl B. Dickerson, two outstanding attorneys to enter the case on behalf of the condemned men. Paul Robeson heads the committee to free the Trenton Six at the CRC, 205 E. 42nd St. It urges that wires be rushed to Gov. Alfred E. Driscoll, Trenton, New Jersey. It needs funds to fight.

We fervently urge all our readers and friends to join this fight against the new-style lynching of the Trenton Six. They plead for your help. They are innocent men facing death because the Jimcrow system demands new victims all the time. Can you be deaf to their plea? **Can the men and women of American labor in the CIO and AFL sit by while this government-made mass lynching rushes to its terrible conclusion?**

Leave Death House

New Trials For 6 Men

13c

By **BILL SMITH**

(Courier Philadelphia Bureau)

TRENTON, N. J.—While a sister wept and a father bowed his head, the six doomed Negroes of Trenton were granted new trials last week. The New Jersey Supreme Court, in a unanimous decision, gave a second chance to the "Trenton Six' who were sentenced to death by an all-white Mercer County jury last Aug. 6, for the murder of a 72-year old second hand furniture dealer.

The court based its decision for a new trial on three principal points: 1. The verdict of the jury was defective in that it failed to specify the defendants were guilty of murder in the first degree specifically. The verdict was only "guilty." 2. The trial judge erred in telling the jury there were no legal restrictions as to its right to recommend mercy or not. 3. Refusal of the trial judge to permit defense attorneys to question the police about fingerprints on the supposed murder weapon — a soda bottle—violated the constitutional rights of the defendants.

The high court did not rule on the defense contention that the confessions of the men which were later repudiated by them, were extorted by drugs and threats. This had been a principal point of evidence in the first trial.

RECENT DECISION 7-9-49

But the justices warned the court that when the retrial is held it must hold to the recent decision of the United States Supreme Court in the case of Aaron (Treetop) Turner. In that decision the court held that it was a violation of the defendant's constitutional rights to hold a man for more than thirty-six hours without allowing him to see counsel or relatives. Confessions obtained in such manner, the Supreme Court intimated, may be assumed to have been coerced.

The case of the "Trenton Six" had attracted nation-wide attention. First publicized by the Civil Rights Congress, the case was given a boost when The Pittsburgh Courier sent a reporter to investigate the circumstances. These circumstances included dubious testimony, the iron-clad alibies of the defendants, the hysteria of the public, the strange activities of the wife of the murdered man, the fact that the confessions might have been forced and the testimony of eye witnesses.

Indignation spread beyond the shores of this country to England, India, the Philippines, France and other countries.

PRISON GRAPEVINE

Word of the Supreme Court's action had already reached the prisoners, via the prison grapevine, when they were visited in the death house by their attorneys, the father of one and sister of another. They were overwhelmed; they could say nothing when the visitors first arrived. Sat. 7-9-49

A tailor came to measure them for new clothes. The men stared at the tailor as though in a dream. Shortly afterwards a minister came to visit them. The minister asked: "Are you happy?" There was a long pause, a long holding of breath. Finally one of the men answered softly: "Very."

The six men are Collis English, Ralph Cooper, James Thorpe, McKinley Forest, John McKenzie and Horace Wilson. All are residents of Trenton.

TRENTON, N. J.—Preliminary legal maneuverings over the composition of the jury and the nature of evidence to be submitted will probably delay the retrial of six Trenton Negroes whose death penalty convictions were reversed last week by the New Jersey State Supreme Court. Prosecutor Mario O. Volpe told reporters last Saturday that no trial could be properly arranged before September.

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6 NEGROES' RETRIAL IS DUE IN SEPTEMBER

New York, N.Y.

13c

Sat. 7.2.49

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

TRENTON, N. J., July 1—Preparations went forward today for the retrial of six Trenton Negroes whose death-penalty convictions in a shopkeeper's murder were reversed by the State Supreme Court.

The Times

One of the initial moves will be transfer of the men to the Mercer County jail from the state prison death house to await the trial date. Prosecutor Mario H. Volpe, who conducted the case against the six defendants the first time, made it clear no trial could be properly arranged before September.

Sat 7.2.49

There was some doubt in legal circles that the trial would be reached for many months because of expected preliminary legal maneuvers over the nature of evidence to be submitted, the composition of the new jury and other details.

Judge Charles P. Hutchinson, trial judge the first time, declined comment. Two of his rulings, that excluding testimony on the state's efforts to find fingerprints on the soda pop bottles allegedly used to bludgeon the shopkeeper and his wife, and that amending the jury's verdict of "guilty" to "guilty of murder in the first degree," were among points on which the Supreme Court reversed the convictions.

13c 1949

Legal Snetence (New Jersey)

The Nation
New York New York
Sat 3-12-49

"THEY MUST DIE FOR BEING BLACK." SO READS the headline in a British magazine over an account of the arrest, trial, and conviction of six Negroes in Trenton, New Jersey, for the murder of an elderly white second-hand-furniture dealer. And elsewhere in Europe the "Northern Scottsboro Case" has already been given a notoriety it is just beginning to receive on these shores. For here, fifty miles from Times Square, we seem to have as raw a violation of due process as any below the Mason-Dixon Line. Shortly after William Horner was bludgeoned to death in his store one morning in January, 1948, six Negro suspects were rounded up, apparently at random, by a police force that had recently been criticized for inefficiency. (One of the men was originally picked up on the complaint of his father, whose car he had used without permission. A brother-in-law who went to the police station to see what had happened was also arrested and never released.) All suspects were then "questioned" until they "confessed." This questioning continued, in some cases, for five days and four nights without pause, the police working in relays. The men later stated that they were beaten, threatened, and cajoled during this period; several claim they were given drugged cigarettes and drugged water, and a doctor employed by the city of Trenton has admitted this to be a possibility. Each of the six later produced a sound alibi: one was working in another town at the moment of the crime, another was making a bank deposit, and so on. Yet at the end of a fifty-five day trial, all were convicted of murder and sentenced to death. The left-wing Civil Rights Congress, first to come to the assistance of the condemned, has retained O. John Rogge, who has begun proceedings on appeal. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is preparing a brief *amicus curiae*. In an early issue we will present a more complete report on the case.

Sat. 3-12-49

New Jersey Murder Case Becomes Trial Within Trial

13c

Christian Science Monitor Boston, Mass. Thu. 5-19-4

By a Staff Correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor

Trenton, N. J.

A 1948 murder trial is itself on trial in New Jersey's new Supreme Court established under a modernized State Constitution.

The court must decide whether the Mercer County court conviction of six Negroes last August in the slaying of William Horner, Trenton secondhand dealer, was in accordance with due process of law. If it finds that police and trial procedures were unfair, the convicted men, all sentenced to the electric chair by the lower court, may be retried.

13c

The Supreme Court, headed by Chief Justice Arthur T. Vanderbilt, who has an outstanding record as lawyer and jurist, will decide on this issue within two weeks. It recently heard arguments for and against a new trial for the convicted men. 5-19-49

Much emotion has been stirred up over this case. The protests of such liberal organizations as the American Civil Liberties Union and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the violent propaganda of such left-wing groups as the Civil Rights Congress and the Communist Party have aroused doubts as to the justice of the lower court decision.

The ruling of the Supreme Court—in which even lawyers for the convicted men have expressed their confidence—in advance—may help pierce the confusion surrounding this case.

The Mercer County court trial was the longest and costliest murder case in the state's history. It lasted 55 days, took up 6,000 pages of testimony, and cost $72,000.

The fate of the "Trenton Six" has been made a cause célèbre in left-wing circles. Charges that they were "framed" and demands that they be given a new trial were voiced repeatedly by marchers in the May Day parade in New York. Meetings have been held in many European countries protesting "Jersey justice."

The facts in the case are these: William Horner was attacked in his combination shop and living quarters on the morning of Jan. 27, 1948, and beaten so badly with a soda pop bottle that ne died within a few hours. Soon thereafter the six Negroes were arrested and held several days before their arraignment. This point—admitted by Mercer County Prosecutor Mario H. Volpe — may have a bearing on the Supreme Court's decision because of the possible violation of the convicted men's civil rights by the delayed arraignment.

13c

Thereafter versions vary. The lawyers for the six charge that the police extorted confessions from five of the men by giving them drugs and by brutal and protracted questioning.

The prosecutor denies that the confessions — later repudiated in court — were extorted from the men or that they had been mistreated or drugged. He insisted that the time lag between arrest and arraignment was necessary for a thorough investigation before lodging a formal murder charge against them. 5-19-49

The Supreme Court deflated the attempt by lawyers for the concicted men to make the case a major national issue in the courtroom. When O. John Rogge, Civil Rights Congress lawyer, representing three of the convicted men, mentioned the case as a "northern Scottsboro case" in which Negroes were being railroaded by an all-white jury without a fair trial. the court interrupted him.

The six convicted men are Collis English, Ralph Cooper, McKinley Forest, John McKenzie, Horace Wilson, and James Thorpe.

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6 Given Death Win Retrials In New Jersey

Courier-Journal

State's Highest Court Says Trial Judge Erred

Louisville, Ky

Trenton, N. J., June 30 (AP)—The "Trenton Six," six Negroes sentenced to die for slaying an aged storekeeper, today won their fight for a new trial.

The State Supreme Court unanimously reversed a Mercer County Court murder conviction. It halted a scheduled mass execution of the six prisoners and ordered a retrial. Fri. 7-1-49

The State's highest tribunal held that the trial judge had erred in his handling of the case, which defense attorneys have alled a "Northern Scottsboro case."

(The 1931 Scottsboro case involved nine Alabama Negroes sentenced to death on charges of attacking two white girls. None of the sentences were executed.)

The conviction of the six last August touched off a series of protest meetings throughout the nation and abroad, and let to the appeal to the Supreme Court.

Erred On Testimony.

The Civil Rights Congress, a group listed as subversive by the Government, spearheaded the appeal to save the men from the electric chair. C.R.C. units from coast to coast staged fund-raising rallies for the prisoners, whom the congress calls the "Trenton Six." 7-1-49

The six Negroes were convicted of bludgeoning to death William Horner, 72, in his secondhand furniture shop January 27, 1948, during a $35 robbery.

The Supreme Court's **main** opinion held in part that Trial Judge Charles P. Hutchinson had erred in pronouncing the death sentence because the jury verdict was "Guilty" rather than "Guilty in the first degree."

The judge also erred, the court said, in upholding the prosecution's argument that a State-police captain was immune from testifying whether fingerprints were found on the alleged murder weapon, a soda bottle.

The defense had charged that evidence was suppressed at the nine-week trial and that the prisoners signed confessions while drugged.

The six defendants are Collis English, 23; McKinley Forrest, 35; John McKenzie, 24; Horace Wilson, 37; Ralph Cooper, 23, and James Thorpe, 24.

Retrial Is Asked For Six Negroes In N. J. Slaying

N.Y. Herald Tribune
New York N.Y.

Supreme Court in Trenton Hears Appeal for Men Sentenced to the Chair

Tue. 5-17-49

By Ralph Chapman

TRENTON, N. J., May 16.—A decision involving the lives of six me nwas put up to the eight-month-old New Jersey Supreme Court here today. The seven justices heard four hours of oral argument on the appeal of six Negroes convicted Aug. 6, 1948, of fiirst-degree murder in the killing of an elderly Trenton shopkeeper.

O. John Rogge, former Assistant United States Attorney, who headed the defense panel, told the court that Mercer County Prosecutor Mario H. Volpe and the Trenton police "raped justice" in obtaining the convictions.

Prosecutor Volpe insisted that "the record (in this case) is a monument to Jersey justice."

At the conclusion of the session, conducted in the State House Annex while State Police patrolled the corridors and grounds to guard against any demonstration, Chief Justice Arthur T. Vanderbilt announced that the court will consider the case in conference. A decision on the appeal for a new trial is not expected before next week at the earliest.

13c

"Costliest" Murder Trial

The six defendants, who have been in the death house of the state penitentiary since being sentenced to the electric chair, are Collis English, twenty-three; Ralph Cooper, twenty-three; McKinley Forest, thirty-five; John McKenzie, twenty-four; Horace Wilson, thirty-seven, and James Thorpe, twenty-four. McKenzie is a nephew of Forest, who is a brother-in-law of English.

5-17-49

William Horner, seventy-two-year-old second-hand dealer, was attacked in his combination shop and living quarters on the morning of Jan. 27, 1948, and beaten so badly with a bottle of soda pop that he died five hours later. The slaying and subsequent arrest of the six men resuted in the longest and costliest murder trial in the state's history. It lasted fifty-five days, took up 6,000 pages of testimony and cost the state $72,000.

The convictions aroused the Nation Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Civil Rights Congress. The latter organizatoin especially rushed to the defenst of the men and made the case of the "Trenton Six" one of its major causes| Allegations that they were "framed" and demands that they be given a new trial were voiced repeatedly by marchers in the May Day parade in New York and elsewhere. There have been repercussions among Leftist organizations abroad as well as in many parts of this country.

Five of the six gave confessions to the police, but repudiated them during the trial. Mr. Rogge insisted today that the confessions were "extorted" and therefore inadmissible. He and other defense attorneys contend that the men were given drugs and doped cigarettes, that there was evidence of police brutality and that all of the defendants were held incommunicado and subjected to protracted questioning in efforts to force confessions.

Tue. 5-17-49

Mistreatment is Denied

Admitting that several days elapsed between the time the men were arrested and their arraignment, Mr. Volpe flatly denied that they had been mistreated in any way, much less drugged. He insisted that the time lag was due to the necessity for thorough investigation before lodging a formal charge of murder against them.

Chief Justice Vanderbilt objected to Mr. Rogge's characterization of the proceedings as a "northern Scottsboro case." He said that in the earlier case the defendants had not been given the Supreme Court protection vouchsafed Mr. Rogge's clients. The attorney replied that he has every confidence in the court.

Defense grounds for appealing for a new trial, besides the contention that the confessions were inadmissible an dthat the state suppressed evidence not presenting a record of fingerprints taken from the murder weapon, include claims that identification of the defendants by Mrs. Elizabeth Horner was faulty and that the trial judge had no right to impose the maximum penalty because the jury simply found the men guilty without specifying the degree. Mrs. Horner, also a victim of the attack in the store, did not identify the defendants until after the trial began. 5-17-49

The latter two of the defense contentions were not argued at length today, because both sides had gone into them at length in briefs filed with the court previously. Four defense lawyers were given forty-five minutes each for their arguments, and Mr. Volpe was given an hour.

Attendance in the court room was limited to attorrneys, relatives of the defendants, reporters and two dozen spectators.

Under Death Sentence For Murder-Robbery

Daily World. Atlanta, Ga.

13c

TRENTON, N. J. — (SNS) — Six persons sentenced to die for slaying an aged white storekeeper Friday had won their fight for a new trial.

The New Jersey Supreme Court unanimously reversed a Mercer County Court murder conviction, thus halting a scheduled mass execution of the six prisoners. Retrial was ordered.

The high court held that the trial judge had erred in his handling of the case which defense attorneys have charged was a "Northern Scottsboro case."

MURDER CONVICTION

Six men were convicted of bludgeoning to death William Horner, 72, in his second-hand furniture shop Januray 27, 1948, during a $35 robbery.

14c

Their conviction last August resulted in a series of protest meetings throughout the nation and abroad and led to the appeal to the Supreme Court. The appeal was spearheaded by the Civil Rights Congress, which dubbed the convicted men "The Trenton Six."

The State's highest tribunal's main opinion held that Trial Judge Charles P. Hutchinson had erred in pronouncing the death sentence because the jury verdict was "guilty" rather than "guilty" in the first degree."

Six Negroes Sentenced to Death As Jersey Slayers Get New Trials

Times

New York, N.Y.

13c

Fri. 7-1-49

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

TRENTON, N. J., June 30—New trials for six Trenton Negroes who have been under sentence of death since last August for the murder of an aged second-hand furniture dealer during a hold-up were granted today by the New Jersey Supreme Court.

The decision of the Court was unanimous but Justice A. Dayton Oliphant dissented from one of the three reasons given by the other six justices for vacating the verdict of the jury at the trial in Mercer County that led to the convictions. Fri. 7-1-49

Justice Harry Heher in an opinion in which all but Justice Oliphant concurred based the reversal on these major findings:

1. The verdict of the jury was defective in that it failed to specify the defendants were guilty of murder in the first degree specifically. The verdict was only "guilty."

2. The trial judge erred in telling the jury there were no legal restrictions as to its right to recommend mercy or not.

3. Refusal of the trial judge to permit defense attorneys to question the police about fingerprints on the supposed murder weapon—a soda bottle—violated the constitutional rights of the defendants. Fri. 7-1-49

The high court did not rule directly on a defense contention that confessions had been extorted from five of the six accused Negroes by duress and the use of drugs in violation of the "due process' guarantees of the Federal Constitution.

But Justice Heher's opinion warned the court where the retrial is to be held that it must be guided by the opinion written by Justice Felix Frankfurter in a United States Supreme Court decision on Monday in deciding whether the confessions can be admitted. Justice Frankfurter held that "due process" was violated by prolonged police interrogation of defendants prior to arraignment in court.

13c

The appeal had attracted nation-wide attention by reason of a campaign waged by Communists and Left Wing groups to characterize the convictions as a "Northern Scottsboro Case." This drive was started six months after the convictions and coincided with the opening in New York of the trial of eleven Communists for conspiracy to overthrow the Government.

O. John Rogge, former Assistant United States Attorney General who represented some of the defendants on the appeal under retainer from the Civil Rights Congress, one of the organizations Attorney General Tom Clark has listed as subversive, described yesterday's decision as a major victory for civil liberties.

Arthur Garfield Hays, general counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union, acclaimed the ruling as a great triumph for American justice and fair play. It should also, he said, serve as a warning to some police officials, who in their frenzy to get confessions and convictions, resort to unfair and unconstitutional methods. Fri. 7-1-49

The American Civil Liberties Union had reported previously that there was no evidence of racial discrimination in the record of the trial although all six defendants are Negroes. It did not associate itself with the claim that this was a "Northern Scottsboro Case," of Negroes being railroaded to jail by an all white jury without a fair trial.

As soon as the decision was handed down, defense attorneys started a move to have the defendants transferred from the State Prison death house to Mercer County jail to await their new trial. Frank S. Katzenbach 3d, one of the defense lawyers, estimated it would take ten days to have the transfer made.

With James Waldron and Robert Queen, Trenton attorneys who had been assigned as defense counsel at the first trial and William L. Patterson of the Civil Rights Congress, Mr. Katzenbach visited the defendants yesterday afternoon and notified them of their good fortune. He reported that they "just grinned" on hearing the news but made no comment.

Re-Trial Seen in September

Mario H. Volpe who conducted the prosecution at the first trial and who will act in a similar capacity at the second trial estimated yesterday that it would be September before the second trial can get under way.

The six defendants affected by the decision are Collis English, Ralph Cooper, Horace Wilson, McKinley Forrest, James Thorpe and John McKenzie. They had been found guilty after a trial lasting fifty-five days and costing Mercer County $72,000 of bludgeoning William Horner, a second-hand furniture dealer, to death in the rear of his Trenton store on Jan. 27, 1948.

English was the first defendant taken into custody. He was picked up on a minor complaint ten days after the fatal attack and then questioned about the Horner murder. Four of the remaining five were picked up the next day and the sixth some time later. English was questioned for five days before he was arraigned and the four others for four days.

In explanation of the court's view that the jury verdict was defective for failure to specify the defendants were guilty of murder in the first degree, Justice Heher's opinion said:

16c

"A finding of circumstances constituting murder of the first degree is not to be annexed to a verdict of 'guilty' by intendment or a presumption based upon the evidence. That is a solemn obligation of the jury in a matter of the utmost gravity; and its fulfillment cannot be made to rest on bare inference. The death sentence cannot be pronounced unless the verdict is definitive of the degree of guilt that entails that penalty."

It was to this conclusion that Justice Oliphant dissented. H held that since the defendants were accused of murder during a hold-up, it was not necessary for it to specify the defendants were guilty of murder in the first degree.

With reference to the purported confessions and their admissibility as evidence, the opinion cited Justice Frankfurter's holding earlier this week and added: Fri. 7-1-49

"The meaning of the due process clause of the Federal Constitution is the exclusive province of the Supreme Federal judicial authority. Our function is to order a new trial when the judgment is tainted with error. We can do no more than to direct the application of the cited cases to the case made on the retrial."

An Old Finding Reaffirmed

13c

Constitution Atlanta, Ga.

In enlightened New Jersey, home of the nation's most drastic laws against racial discrimination, six Negroes have been condemned to die for a murder which witnesses say was committed by only three. None of the six positively has been identified as a participant in the crime. Conviction was based on "confessions" which came after four days and five nights of police grilling. Five of the six cannot read or write. They signed their X to the confessions.

In Vermont, which also takes delight in looking down its long New England nose at the South, three penniless war veterans are facing possible life imprisonment because they can't pay court judgment debts. If we learned our fourth-grade history well, that is one reason the forebears of present Vermonters, and Georgians, too, left the England of George III. It has been our understanding that civilized societies abolished such laws more than a hundred years ago—even before human slavery came into disrepute.

Sun. 5-22-49

In Philadelphia, home of the righteous Quakers, a six-judge Federal Court has refused to extradite to Georgia a convicted slayer on the grounds that Georgia chaingangs are "barbaric." Chaingangs were abolished in Georgia in 1938. 5-22-49

We have no way of knowing, of course, what are the political aspirations of the five judges out of six who voted against extradition. The Negro vote in Philadelphia, however, is considerable.

It is our feeling, though, that Federal judges who have sworn to uphold the Constitution should, in all fairness, go back and read it sometime. We call particular attention of these judges to Article IV, Section 2, paragraph 2: "A person charged in any State with treason, felony or other crime, who shall flee from justice and be found in another State, shall, on demand of the Executive authority of the State from which he fled, be delivered up, to be removed to the State having jurisdiction of the crime."

13c 5-22-49

We submit that it would be pretty difficult for any court which can read to misconstrue such an explicit passage from the fundamental law of the land.

If Georgia prisoners are victims of inhuman treatment then plainly the Federal Courts having jurisdiction in this State have been derelict in their duty. For the Eighth Amendment specifically prohibits "cruel and unusual" punishments.

In the absence of any action or suggestion of action in the Federal Courts properly concerned, however, we must assume that there is no valid ground for complaint and that Georgia is on par, at least, with Vermont, which jails debtors as they did in the eighteenth century, and New Jersey, which convicts six defendants when only three persons were at the scene of the crime. 5-22-49

To us benighted, barbaric Southerners there is a touch of grim humor in these incidents. And in our own naive way we can only smile and chalk up some more scores by our conclusion of long ago that wrongdoing too often depends on where it is found.

"They Must Die For Being Black!"

Daily World

(From the Nation)

13c

"They must die for being black." So reads the headline in a British Magazine of an account of the arrest, trial and conviction of six Negroes in Trenton, New Jersey for the murder of an elderly white second-hand furniture dealer. And elsewhere in Europe the "Northern Scottsboro Case" has already been given a notoriety it is just beginning to receive on these shores. For here, fifty-five miles from Times Square, we seem to have as raw a violation of the due process as any below the Mason-Dixon Line. Shortly after William Horner was bludgeoned to death in his store one morning in January, 1948, six Negro suspects were rounded up, apparently at random, by a police force that had recently been criticized for inefficiency. (One of the men was picked up on the complaint of his father, whose car he had used without permission. A brother-in-law who went to the police station to see what had happened was also arrested and never released). All suspects were then "questioned" until they "confessed." This questioning continued, in some cases, for five days and four nights without pause, the police working in relays. The men later stated that they were beaten, threatened, cajoled during the period; several claim they were given drugged cigarettes and drugged water, and a doctor employed by the city of Trenton has admitted this to be a possibility. Each of the six produced an alibi. One was working in another town at the moment of the crime. Another was making a bank deposit, and so on. Yet at the end of a fifty-day trial all were convicted of murder, fined and sentenced.

Atlanta, Ga.

Wed. 3-16-49

Justice In New Jersey?

13c

There is a cloud of doubt and suspicion surrounding the conviction of six young Trenton, New Jersey Negroes, now in prison awaiting execution for the murder of a 73 year-old white man more than a year ago.

Bruce Bliven, in the May 16 issue of The New Republic, has written a critical appraisal of the facts in the case and says: "There is grave doubt as to the guilt of all six and not more than three were ever involved, in any way, by the state's uncontested evidence."

Atlanta Daily World

According to Mr. Bliven, the evidence shows that on the night of January 27, 1948, William Horner, old and feeble, lived in a run down area on North Broad Street in Trenton. He is said to have had a wife, and six children, but was separated from his wife, and had been living many years with a woman much younger than himself.

Atlanta, Ga.

The story from here on reads like a page taken from any backwood, rural southern community. Throughout America and in certain parts of Europe, the case has become to be known as the "Little Northern Scottsboro case."

Mr. Bliven said of the treatment: "These men were grilled hour after hour, day and night, with the threats of punishment, with the enormous psychological prestige of the white man over the Negro, the safe over the insecure, the policeman over the frightened, timid, slum dweller, who all his life, has seen, not justice but coercion looming at the end of a night stick."

Sun. 5-22-49

What is the state of New Jersey trying to do, show the

Lyons, Ga., officials how to deal out justice?

N. J. Court Acts After Mass Protest

FIVE NEGRO VICTIMS of the Trenton frameup, whose conviction was reversed yesterday by the New Jersey Supreme Court, are shown at the time of their arrest. Left to right: Collis English, Ralph Cooper, James Thorpe, McKinley Forest and Horace Wilson. The sixth defendant, John McKenzie, was not present when the photo was made.

The death sentences against the six framed Trenton Negro youths were reversed yesterday by the New Jersey Suprme Court in a decision that crowns a 10-months campaign by the Civil Rights Congress. The court indicated that it believed the "confessions" on which the convictions were based were illegally extorted by the Trenton police while the men were held without warrants. And it criticized the trial judge for improperly charging and influencing the jury.

New York.

Daily worker

The court's decision also scored the prosecution's suppression of important fingerprint evidence sought by the defense.

New York.

The decision also reversed the death sentences on the technicality that the trial judge had sentenced the men to the penalty for first degree murder although the jury had merely returned a verdict of "guilty," without specifying the degree.

Fri. 7-1-49

The Trenton victory was the hardest judicial blow against the frameup system since the U. S. Supreme Court quashed the death sentences against the nine Scottsboro boys after a lengthy struggle in which millions of Americans were involved.

Daily Worker

O. John Rogge, former Assistant Attorney General, had argued the appeal before the high court last month.

"A similar victory must now be won for the 12 framed Communist leaders," said Patterson, who is one of the attorneys for the Trenton Six, last night.

MASS CAMPAIGN

Patterson announced a mass campaign to free the vindicated men at once, without waiting for another trial.

"Letters must be sent at once to the office of Gov. Driscoll and Attorney General Parsons of New Jersey, demanding that the case be thrown out and that Prosecutor Volpe and the police officials responsible for the frame-up be removed and punished," he said.

There was rejoicing in the deathhouse when Patterson and Mrs. Bessie Mitchell brought the six men the good news.

"The six men looked wonderfully happy," said Mrs. Mitchell, who is the sister of Collis English, one of the men, and the sister in law of McKinley Forest, another. They were all very excited, naturally.

"While I talked to them all kinds of things were happening. Men came in to measure them for suits, then along comes the doctor to check on their health; then along comes the minister, who said: 'Are you happy?' They could hardly talk, but they were smiling from ear to ear."

The doctor seemed concerned about McKinley Forest's legs, which have been badly swelled for two months.

FAMILIES REJOICE

The families of the six men were also rejoicing.

"The Civil Rights Congress did a job, what a job," James Thorpe, father of one of the men kept saying, as he left the court building, with his father, Thomas Thorpe, the boy's grandfather.

The elder Thorpe, a white-haired man, had been active in the struggle for the men's release.

Mrs. Emma English, mother of Collis English, was busy entertaining neighbors, who crowded into her home with congratulations. "The Civil Rights Congress did a wonderful job," she repeated several times.

Mrs Bessie Mitchell, who has finished one nation-wide tour for the defense, and is about to start another for the CRC, said simply: "Thank God for the Civil Rights Congress; it taught us how to fight."

The campaign for the Trenton Six was carried to Europe by Paul Robeson, Negro singer and people's leader. Many organizations in Great Britain and elsewhere demanded the release of the six after he presented the case at mass meetings.

7-1-49

Demonstrations, culminating in a big picket line around the State House in Trenton this spring, were held throughout the United States for the six.

FOLLOWED MURDER

The frameup followed the murder of a 72-year-old second-hand dealer named William Horner of Trenton, whose body was found in his store Feb. 6, 1947.

Police began arresting Negroes and extorting confessions. Collis English, McKinley Forest, Ralph Cooper, James Thorpe, Horace Wilson and John McKenzie were arrested and indicted. The only eyewitness testimony said three light-skinned persons had been seen at the crime spot. The prisoners were all dark.

The framers crudely suppressed fingerprint evidence that the defense said would have proved the innocence of the defendants.

This evidence was "competent and admissible," said the Supreme Court.

"There was evidence," said the court, tending to show that the soda water bottle found in the rear room of the Horner store was tested for fingerprints in the Identification Bureau of the Trenton Police Dept. The neck of the splintered bottle discovered in the front room was given a like examination in that bureau and also in the State Police Identification Bureau. The State offered no evidence in this regard. And the accused directed subpoenas duces tecum to the Director of Public Safety in Trenton and certain of that Department's superior officers and to the supervisors of the State Police Identification Bureau. On the State's motion the subpoenas were quashed, and this judicial action is also assigned for error.

"The state is not at liberty to introduce such findings into evidence when it suits its purposes and plead 'privileges' when the evidence is sought by the accused."

ON 'CONFESSIONS'

Discussing the extorted confessions on which the convictions were based, the high court said in part:

"It cannot be doubted that a confession induced by physical or moral compulsion, whatever its nature, has no evidential efficacy.

"In each of three cases decided three days ago, the Federal Supreme Court found a denial of due process where, without law, there was prolonged interrogation of the accused over a period of several days and the accused was under detention without a hearing, and without friendly or professional aid, and without advice as to his constitutional rights."

"Mr. Justice Frankfurter said: 'A confession by which life becomes forfeit must be the expression of free choice. . . . But if it is the product of sustained pressure by the police, it does not issue from a free choice. . . . To turn the detention of an accused into a process of wrenching from him evidence which couldn't be extorted in open court with all its safeguards, is so grave an abuse of the power of arrest as to offend procedural standards of due process.'

ILLEGALLY EXTORTED

The Court said that it was passing the Supreme Court's "criteria" on "confessions" to the lower court, which would try the men again (if there is a second trial).

The Court strongly implied that it regarded the "confessions" as illegally extorted declarations, in the following lines:

"Now as to the purported confessions: the inculpatory statements ascribed to Cooper, English, Thorpe and Forrest were all made while they were in police custody without the sanction of a warrant of arrest, and before arraignment and commitment; McKenzie's the day following his arraignment . . .

"It is said that, in making the purported declaration, the confessors yielded to time, physical and psychological exhaustion, and the weighted, overpowering authority of police officialdom . . ."

7-1-49

UNANIMOUS DECISION

The court's decision was read by Justice Heber. It was unanimously concurred in by the other justices—Chief Justice Harold J. Vanderbilt and Justices Berlin, Oliphant, Case, Wachenfeld and Ackerson.

Patterson praised the united front support the defense had received from Negro and white champions of civil liberties and the oppressed Negro people everywhere.

7-1-49

N. C. Governor Grants Stay Of Death Sentence

11-18-49

RALEIGH, N. C. — The death sentence of Lee Heller, 48-year old Catawba County (N. C.) Negro convicted of killing his wife, was postponed Thursday by Governor Kerr Scott pending an appeal to the state supreme court for a new trial.

Earlier this week a motion for a new trial was refused by Catawba county superior court Judge J. C. Rudisill. Heller's attorney then filed a motion of appeal with the high court.

SAVED BY MERCY LAW:

Youth Who Missed Gas Chamber Gives Thanks

Afro-American

Nat. 11-26-49

Baltimore, Md.

RALEIGH, N.C. — Joseph Millings, 19, of Greensboro, now serving life imprisonment at Caledonia Prison Farm for first-degree murder, last week thanked Gov. Kerr Scott for the "mercy law" which allowed him to escape death in the gas chamber.

He told the Governor by letter that he would always be grateful "to everyone that had anything to do with that law being passed."

The Governor had little to do about passage of the statute. It was not a part of his program but was originated by members of the 1949 General Assembly.

Gives Murderers Break

At least eight men convicted of capital felonies were allowed its benefits in the first five months after the law became effective.

Before it was enacted, North Carolina courts could pronounce only one sentence for first-degree murder and criminal attacks. The sentence had to be death.

Now juries may bring in a recommendation of mercy and the death penalty reduced to life imprisonment.

13c N.C.

Denied Crime

Millings was 18 when he was convicted, with an older man, Charles Broadnax, for the murder and robbery of W. L. Holbrook. Greensboro wine merchant. He was sent to prison from Guilford.

They were arrested after a pistol used in the killing was found in Broadnax's room. Both received life terms.

Millings denied any knowledge of the crime. He testified at the trial that he was arrested because he had been seen in Broadnax's company.

Huntley Given 17 to 20 Years In Murder Case

Journal & Guide

Norfolk Virginia

HIGH POINT, N. C. — Maintaining his innocence, George W. Huntley was sentenced to from 17 to 20 years in prison here last week for the murder of Henry Leonard Morgan on August 8. The court had found Huntley guilty of second degree murder in the fatal stabbing of Morgan.

The jury deliberated less than two hours in returning the verdict.

Sat-1-1-49

Before he passed the sentence Judge William H. Bobbitt, observed that "we don't know exactly what happened at the time of the killing." No testimony was offered in the trial regarding the murder and there were no witnesses. Several state witnesses testified that Huntley admitted that he was in trouble the night of the murder.

Huntley was represented by Attorney John W. Langford and Attorney Herbert Parks of Greensboro, N. C.

Morgan was a former teacher at the William Penn High School here and was a native of Raleigh, N. C.

Sat 1-1-49

White Woman's Death Brings 7-10 Year Term

Journal and Guide Sat. 9-10-49

CONCORD, N. C. — In this southern textile mill community, a jury of nine white and three colored men last week returned a verdict of manslaughter against a Negro man charged with slaying a white woman following a drinking party in a nearby woods in which both participated.

Norfolk, Va.

The Negro Albert Brown, 50, a construction worker received a sentence of from seven to ten years in the penitentiary The slain woman was Mrs. Lane Morgan. Yet to be tried on murder charges in connection with her death are her husband, Lane Morgan, 69 and Glenn T. Furr, 41, a white neighbor, also members of the drinking party.

DEFENDED BY NAACP

Brown's defense was handled by the North Carolina State Conference of NAACP Branches. The three Negro jurors were the first members of their race to sit on a jury in Cabarrus county in 85 years. Their selection was forced by the action of NAACP attorneys J. S. Bowser, L. P. Harris and Thomas H. Wyche, who raised the question of Negroes being systematically excluded from jury service in the county.

Before the entry of the NAACP in the case Brown was the only one of the three defendants who had been arrested and charged with the murder. However, upon the demand of defense counsel, both Lane Morgan and Furr were taken into custody and murder charges were preferred against them also.

IN DRINKING BOUT

When the trial began before Judge Frank W. Armstrong testimony was adduced showing that the woman was found dead after a drinking bout with the three men.

Furr, questioned by Solicitor John McLaughlin said he had joined Mr. and Mrs. Lane Morgan and Albert Brown around 6 p. m. last April 13 in a wooded section at a spring near his home in North Concord. Furr related that all four persons left the secene individually at various times during the drinking party.

Eventually, Furr said, Mrs. Morgan left the party for good without his seeing her depart, and that he finally told Morgan he was going home, leaving the latter to find his wife.

HEARD WOMAN SCREAM

On his way home, Furr continued, he heard a woman scream loudly once for help. Hastily turning backward, the witness said he came upon two people in a railroad ditch. He identfiied them as Mrs. Morgan and Brown, and added that the Negro was "on top" of the white woman. He described their position as lengthwise, and said Mrs. Morgan yelled, "let me up, let me up!"

SCREAMED AT BROWN

Furr said he screamed at Brown, "your number is up!" but he got no reply. Then, he added, he ran to summon the woman's husband, who, he explained, was lying near the spring "apparently in a drunken stupor." Furr said he told Morgan that "the Negro is up yonder raping your wife."

Then Furr said he left with the intention of calling the police, but changed his mind, went home, ate supper, moved a radio amplifier and went to sleep.

Under questioning by NAACP Attorney Harris stated that at one time during the party Mrs. Morgan was sitting in an "improper position," and that he and Morgan had always been good friends. He said that the couple in the railway ditch positively was Brown and Mrs. Morgan, that Mr. Morgan did nothing when told his wife was being raped, and that he did not call police because he eventually decided that it was not rape, and did not wish to get involved in the "dirty affair."

The jury returned the manslaughter verdict after an hour and a half of deliberation.

CREDIT TO NAACP

The outcome of the trial is considered a tribute to the progressiveness of the North Carolina NAACP, and the abl edefense it provided in the case under the leadership of Mr. Bowser, chairman of the organization's legal committee.

White Man Kills
Negro; Gets Life

Spartanburg, S.C. White supremacy advocates here received a distinct jolt last week when a white man was given a life term by an all-White jury for killing a colored boy.

The verdict carried a recommendation of mercy which made the life sentence mandatory.

David Lee Crane, 29 was the man sentenced. He killed 10 year-old Starling Turner with a shotgun at the Crane home near Fingerville June 23.

Testimony revealed the youth delivered a dozen eggs to Crane's home and Crane took them but refused to pay the boy. Young Turner was shot when he said he was going to get his brother.

Defender
Sat. 10-29-49
Chicago, Ill.

13c 1949

Legal Snetence (Washington)

Luck of 'Hex' Killer Holds, Gets 2nd Stay

The Afro American

13c Wky

WASHINGTON — (NNPA) — The U.S. Supreme Court is awaiting a petition for review of the conviction on a murder charge of Jake Bird, an alleged illiterate defendant, by courts in the State of Washington.

Baltimore Md.

Bird, sentenced to be hanged on Jan. 14 for the axe-slaying of Mrs. Bertha Kludt in Tacoma, Wash., sent a letter in his own handwriting to the Supreme Court stating there had been prejudice against him and he had not had a fair trial.

Acting on this letter, Associate Justice William O. Douglas issued a stay of execution on Dec. 24 to remain in effect until Bird files a petition with the court for a review of his case.

Sat. 1-8-49

The court also received a letter from E. R. Lindsey of Washougal, Wash., who described himself as a friend of Bird's.

Lindsey enclosed a newspaper clipping giving an account of Bird's sentence to death. He opined that the Supreme Court should look into his conviction because he was not treated fairly.

Denied Change of Venue

Bird told the Supreme Court he could not get a fair trial in Pearce county (Tacoma) because of adverse publicity, and the judge had denied him a change of venue.

Presumably, the next step will be for the State of Washington to appoint counsel to represent Bird and petition the court for a review of his conviction.

'Hex' Murderer To Go To Chair July 15

13c

TACOMA, Wash. — (ANP) — Jake Bird, convicted murderer who pronounced a "hex" on persons connected with his convictions was given a definite date, July 15, for his execution.

Black Dispatch

Okla. City Okla.

Judge Hugh Rosellini of Superior court told Bird:

"The court has heard you several times before. The court believes there is no purpose in hearing you further."

13 Sat. 6-25-49

If he dies on that date it will mark the end of a fellow, convicted of the slaying of white Mrs. Bertha Kludt two years ago. At the time of his conviction he told the principals involved that they would die before he did. Already six persons have.

13c 1949

Louisiana

Prelate Backs Investigation Of Negro's Death

Courier Journal

Louisville Ky

13c

New Orleans, July 20 (AP)—Archbishop Joseph F. Rummel of New Orleans today backed an investigation of the death of a Negro found dead in jail after he had been charged with murdering a Catholic priest.

Frank Bates, 42, was found dead in Parish Prison by cell mates yesterday. Bates was charged with the murder of the Rev. John F. Neifert in Holy Redeemer Church here July 8. The Orleans Parish coroner's office attributed death to a heart attack.

Dr. Philip Montlepre, assistant coroner, said an autopsy showed Bates suffered two broken ribs, discoloration of both eyes, brush burns, cut wrists, ankles, and shoulders, and bruises on his back.

Thu. 7-21-49

Criminal Sheriff John J. Grosch, who said the prisoner was violent and was placed in a strait jacket, declared he would welcome an investigation.

Alleged Slayer Of Priest Dies In Sleep in Cell

13c

Constitution

NEW ORLEANS— (AP) —Frank Bates, 42-year-old Negro charged with murder in the slaying of a Catholic priest died in Parish Prison Sunday night.

Atlanta, Ga.

The Warden's office said prisoners in the cell with Bates heard him mumbling about 2 a. m., but when they awakened at 5 a. m. they found him dead.

Tue. 7-19-49

The Orleans Parish (county) Coroner's office after an inquest attributed death to a heart attack.

Bates was charged with murder in the iron cargo hook slaying of the Rev. John F. Neifert in Holy Redemeer Church, July 8.

The priest was struck down by an assailant in a hall of the church shortly after celebrating early morning mass that day.

Archbishop Backs Negro Death Probe

13c

The Advertiser

Montgomery, Ala.

NEW ORLEANS, July 19.—(AP)—Archbishop Joseph F. Rummel, of New Orleans, today backed an investigation of the death of a Negro found dead in jail after he was booked on a charge of slaying a Catholic priest.

Wed.

The Negro, Frank Bates, 42, was found dead in parish prison by cellmates yesterday morning. Bates was charged with murder in the slaying of the Rev. John F. Neifert in Holy Redeemer Church here July 8. The Orleans parish coroner's office attributed death to a heart attack. Dr. Philip Montlepre, assistant coroner, said an autopsy showed Bates suffered two broken ribs discoloration of both eyes, brush burns, cut wrists, ankles and shoulders, and bruises on his back.

7-20-49. P. 5

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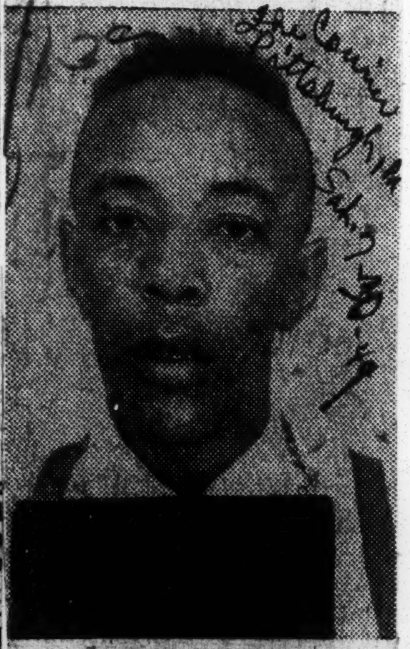
Before



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13c

The Courier

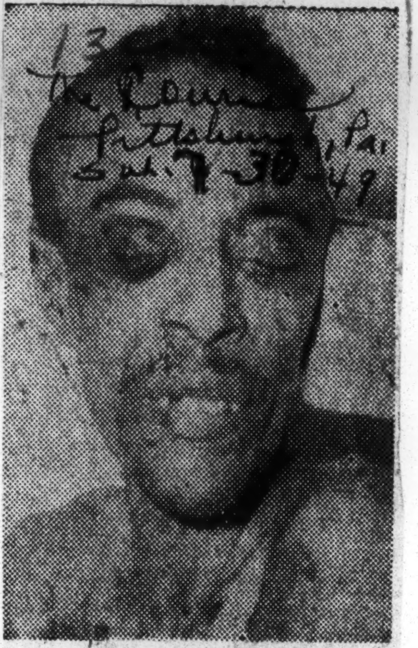
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Sat. 7-30-49

FRANK BATES

. . . after he was jailed

After



13c

The Courier

Pittsburgh, Pa.

Sat. 7-30-49

FRANK BATES

. . . after mysterious death

COPS FIRED; CHIEF SAYS 'BRUTALITY IN ANY FORM' OUT

Times-Picayune

Held Guilty of 'Depriving Pair of Civil Liberties'

Sat. 11-17-49

Two patrolmen were fired from the police department Friday on charges growing out of alleged beatings of two Negro boys.

The officers, Robert J .Walker and Charles T. Rutecki Sr., both assigned to the Sixth Precinct, were discharged by Superintendent of Police Joseph L. Scheuering following a departmental trial.

Walker, 24, 3802 Delachaise, and Ruteckie, 26, 7825 Spruce, were partners in a squad car. The Negro boys, who were arrested separately on Dec. 2 and Dec. 5, one of them in Jefferson parish, complained to Scheuering that they were beaten by the patrolmen.

13e

Walker is a son of Detective Captain William A. Walker, head of the police juvenile and missing persons bureau.

New Orleans, La

Five Days for Appeal

Scheuering said the discharged patrolmen will have five days in which to appeal their cases to the city civil service commission. They were tried on charges of conduct unbecoming an officer and disobedience of orders.

Scheuering said he found them not guilty of beating the two boys, "because the evidence was not sufficient." He added, however, that they were found guilty of "depriving the pair of their civil liberties."

The complainants were Frank Wheeler, Negro, 15, 1442½ Senate, and Wallace La France, Negro, 19, 1528 St. Denis. Both testified at the trial held in Scheuering's office.

Beaten, He Charges

Wheeler said he was walking with two girls near St. Bernard Circle on the night of Dec. 5 when he was stopped for questioning by the patrolmen.

He said the policemne ordered him into the squad car and drove to a secluded place near state police headquarters on the Air-Li hwy., in Jefferson parish, where he was partially stripped of his clothing and beaten. He was brought back to the city and released, he said.

La France testified that he was stopped for questioning by the patrolmen on Dec. 2 at Sere and Gibson. He said they ordered him to enter the car. One officer drove, he said, while the other beat him without provocation. He was released near the intersection where he was picked up, he said.

Scheuering released a statement following the trial in which he said:

"Any form of brutality on the part of police will not be tolerated in this department. If officers are found guilty of such brutality, the punishment will be drastic.

Will Be Prosecution

"I most cases of complaints of police beatings, the charges are not well-founded. But in cases where there is sufficient evidence of beatings, there will be prosecution.

"And if officers are found guilty of brutality, they will, of course, be discharged from the department.

"In this case, the evidence of an actual beating was insufficient to warrant further action. In fact, I found the officers involved not guilty of the beatings.

"They were found guilty, however, of depriving the pair of their civil liberties by taking them into custory, but not booking them at the precinct station."

New Orleans Policemen Freed In Youth Beating

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World

By JAMES B. LaFOURCHE

NEW ORLEANS, La.—(ANP) — Two policemen were dismissed from the force here last week on charges growing out of the beating of two Negro youths, both of whom were taken into custody but not booked at any precinct station. In firing the patrolmen, Supt. Joseph L. Schuering said that the officers were not found guilty of brutality, but of "depriving the pair of their civil liberties."

Wed. 12-28-49

13e La

The patrolmen were given five days in which to appeal their cases to the civil service commission. They were tried on charges of conduct unbecoming an officer and disobedience of orders. The father of one of the fired patrolmen is head of the Police Juvenile and Missing Persons Bureau.

ALLEGES BEATING

Frank Wheeler, 15-year-old youth, said that he and two girls were on their way home when he was stopped by two policemen riding in a squad car. The youth charged that after being ordered into the car, he was driven to a secluded place on the Air-Line highway, near the adjacent parish of St. Bernard, where he was partially stripped of his clothing and beaten.

The second youth, Wallace LaFrance, 19, said that he was stopped at night for questioning by the same two patrolmen and made to enter the squad car. LaFrance testified that while riding along the highway, one of the policemen struck him without provocation. The victim was later released near the scene from which he was picked up.

SUPERINTENDENT SPEAKS

Following the dismissal of the policemen, Supt. Schuering said this: "Any form of brutality on the part of the police will not be tolerated in this department. If officers are found guilty of such brutality, the punishment will be drastic.

"In most cases of complaints of police beatings, the charges are not well founded. But in cases where there is sufficient evidence of beatings, there will be prosecution.

"And if officers are found guilty of brutality, they will, of course, be discharged from the department.

"In this case, the evidence of an actual beating was insufficient to warrant further action. In fact, I found the officers involved not guilty of the beatings.

12-28-49

"They were found guilty, however, of depriving the pair of their civil liberties by taking them into custody, but not booking them at the precinct station."

13c 1949

Louisiana

Negro Runs Amok; Kills 1, Wounds 1

Advertiser

NEW ORLEANS, Oct. 19—(AP)—A Negro man ran amok in a bar here today, blasting four pistol shots at random as he walked through the door. His fire killed a Negro man and wounded a Negro woman.

Police Lieut. Eldred Paternostro of the Second Precinct identified the berserk gunman as Junior Bowers, about 40.

10-20-49

The dead man was George Pounds, the lieutenant said. He identified the wounded woman as Marietta Sanders. She was taken to Charity Hospital with wounded in the head and shoulders.

Montgomery, Ala.

Paternostro said five persons were in the bar when Bowers stepped in and began shooting wildly. The other three patrons were uninjured.

Paternostro said the wounded woman said she had never seen her assailant before.

Verdict in White Case Surprise to Residents

Afro-American; Sat. 7-16-49

13C (Miss)

Racial Tag to Crime Set Off Intensive Manhunt in Nov.; Maid's Testimony Lethal

GREENVILLE, Miss. — The wealthy white college graduate who on Nov. 17, 1948, told police a "light-colored man" killed her mother with a pair of pruning shears, was convicted of the murder last week and sentenced to life imprisonment.

The verdict was a surprise to residents of this area who had said she would never come to trial.

Her original statement set off an intensive search for the man in this delta country. Bloodhounds were used, but no trace of such a person was found. On Dec. 5, the woman, Mrs. Ruth Thompson Dickens, 43, was indicted for the crime.

The subsequent trial was one of the most sensational ever to be tried in the South. It ended after eight days with the jury of 12 white men convicting her of first degree murder.

Victim Cut 200 Times

Victim in the case was Mrs. Idella L. Thompson, 69, whose body had 200 cuts and bruise marks showing. Examining doctors said she had been cut many times even after she was dead.

In announcing its verdict of guilty as charged, the jury explained that it disagreed as to the punishment that should be pronounced. Judge Arthur Jordan of the Circuit Court, then told the defendant:

"It is mandatory that I sentence you to the penetentiary for the remainder of your natural life. I have no alternative. This was a most atrocious crime of which you are guilty."

Mrs. Dickens's husband later told reporters that he would carry the case to the highest court in order to save his wife. The woman also has two daughters.

The trial originally began in January, but was halted when Miss Beatrice Smith, Mrs. Dickens' maid became so nervous that she could not go on.

Lethal Testimony

Miss Smith's testimony was instrumental in having Mrs. Dickens indicted by the grand jury. She said she washed the blood-stained clothes of Mrs. Dickens in Mrs. Dickens's own bath tub following Mrs. Thompson's death.

However, during the trial she tried to be loyal to her employer, and Mrs. Dickens patted her arm after she finished testifying.

The prosecution said that money was the cause of the killing—that Mrs. Dickens spent heavily, was borrowing from friends, and killed her mother during a violent quarrel over money. The family owns about 17,000 acres of land.

Justice by a Hair

It is regarded here as small wonder that some innocent colored man was not found and convicted of the crime because Dickens, the husband, played into the hands of the honkey tonk.

One witness in behalf of the defendant stated, "we offered $1000 reward, but we didn't publicize it, we made no mention to the sheriff or the newspapers.

"We contacted colored men in the honkatonk beer parlors and gambling places because it takes a colored man to catch another one and that is the best method to use."

The guilty woman steadfastly told the court that she came into the room and saw a colored man with the shears in his hand and she wrested them away from him before he made his escape.

Birmingham Police Killed Fourteen Negroes in 1948

(13c) N by ~~Policemen~~

Sun 1-16-49

The Worker
New York, N.Y.

By Sylvia Hall

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Four brutal shootings by Birmingham police in the last three days of 1948 chalked up a total of 14 Negroes killed in the year. Two victims of "trigger happy" police now lie in a hospital critically wounded. This list of killings in a single state refutes the Tuskegee Institute estimate of only three lynchings in 1948 for the entire United States.

On the morning of Dec. 29, police investigated a young 21-year-old Negro who was trying to sell two cases of soft drinks. They took his name and address and left. A few minutes later they were called about a robbery of two cases of drinks. Police returned to the place where young Robert James was selling the drinks. The officers picked up the youth and took him to the address of the robbery. The boy admitted to the robbery and began running away. When the boy kept running after the two officers asked him to halt, they fierd. The boy hit twice, fell dead.

On the same morning, police critically wounded a young Negro who was seen leaving a cleaning establishment. According to the policemen, a window had been smashed and clothing was bundled up inside. As the boy fled the approaching officers, he was shot and according to hospital authorities suffers from "multiple" gunshot wounds. Jan. 1-16-49

★

ALARM IN THE CITY has caused two local papers, the **Birmingham News** and the **Birmingham Post** (Scripps-Howard chain) to comment on these shootings in their editorials.

Said the News:

"There have been several similar incidents in the last year in Birmingham. Many citizens are disturbed at what appeared to be too great a willingness on police officers' part to shoot to kill."

★

THE BIRMINGHAM POST in an editorial entitled "This Killing Must Stop" tells the story of young James and concludes with, "In no case and by no stretching of one's conscience is it possible to find any moral justification for such wanton acts of human destruction."

On New Year's eve a 16-year-old Negro said to have been prowling near a girls' boarding house was shot and killed by police officers. Sun. 1-16-49

Another Negro on the same night was shot and wounded while attempting to "escape arrest."

Each of the 14 killings and other shootings by Birmingham police have been investigated by other officers in the Public Safety Department and found to be "justifiable homicide."

In an editorial in the **Birmingham World**, local Negro newspaper, it is asked, "What is behind all of this blood-letting by Birmingham police? Are some evil forces motivating them? Is there no one above them to call them down? Is Birmingham still a city in the United States? How much longer will police violence go unchecked?"

Troy Policeman Shoots Negro

Montgomery Advertiser

TROY, ALA., March 26.—(AP)—A 33-year-old Negro was shot to death by a police officer early today after the Negro advanced on the policeman with a knife, Chief Lamon Hall said.

Montgomery, Ala.

N by P

The negro was identified as Ocie Knox of Tuscaloosa.

Hall said the shooting took place near the bus station where the Negro had been loitering.

The officer, Dewey Kilpatrick, was attempting to take him to police headquarters for questioning, he reported, when Knox broke and ran. The officer cornered him in an alley where the shooting occurred.

Sun. 3-27-49

Hall quoted Kilpatrick as saying he shot once over the Negro's head after ordering him to halt, then shot him through the heart when he continued to advance on him with the knife.

BOARDING HOUSE FOR
The News
GIRLS SCENE OF NEW
Birmingham, Ala
SLAYING
Sat. 1-1-49

Still Another
Man Wounded By
Officer At Barbecue Stand

A 16 year old Negro prowler was shot to death at a girls' boarding house on the Southside last night after a scuffle with an officer. The News

Another Negro, a 24 year old convicted burglar, was seriously wounded on the Northside when he attempted to escape from two other officers. Birmingham, Ala.

William Hudgins, alias William Hodges, 16, of 1622 Eight Court, South, died instantly when he was shot one time in the right side by Officer C. D. Milwee at the rear of 1715 10th Avenue, South. Sat. 1-1-49

Capt. Marcus Hancock said several complaints about a Negro prowler had come from the boarding house where nearly a dozen working girls live.

At 10:45 Last Night police headquarters received a call from the girls in the boarding house that a Negro was at a bedroom window. Birmingham, Ala.

Officers Milwee and J. E. Lambert drove to the scene. They attempted to go around the house in different directions. Officer Lambert said he "flushed" the Negro as the man had his hands on the screen of a first-story window on the alley side of the house.

The Negro ran toward the rear of the house and cut into the back yard through a hedge, Capt. Hancock said. He was pursued by Officer Lambert.

Officer Milwee was coming around the other side of the house into the back yard when a big brick grazed him. Milwee had his pistol in his hand at the time. The News

As the officer wheeled around the Negro allegedly landed on him, seizing him by the neck. Officer Milwee fired one time, killing the Negro instantly.

Officer Milwee later required treatment at West End Baptist Hospital for a neck injury. The News

The Negro had no identification papers on him at the time.

L. J. Jackson, fingerprint officer, identified the Negro as William Hudgins by fingerprints from police file.

The record showed Hudgins had been arrested five times in 1947-48 for vagrancy, burglary and grand larceny.

Sat. 1-1-49

***

Thomas Eddie Jennings, 24, Negro, of 2124 25th Avenue, North, was shot once in the chest by Officer J. T. Walthall at 7:30 last night.

Jennings was admitted to Hillman Hospital. Doctors said his condition was listed as critical.

Capt. Hancock reported that the Negro came to the rear of Watts Barbecue at 2622 28th Avenue, North, last night. He entered a small dining room where the Negro trade is served.

The Negro woman manager of the place said she recognized Jennings as the man who stole $26 from the cash

Birmingham, Ala.

register there three weeks ago. Officers Walthall and O. V. Vance had investigated that complaint.

The manager notified Mr. Watts the owner, that Jennings was in the place last night. The owner called Officers Walthall and Vance.

Mr. Watts who watched the Negro through a peep-hole in the door, said Jennings took some money from the cash register last night while the manager's back was turned.

As the cash register opened the woman manager turned around and grabbed Jennings by the coat. Mr. Watts also ran into the serving room. The Negro was scuffling with Mr. Watts when the officers arrived.

Officer Walthall attempted to take Jennings to a patrol car. The Negro jerked loose and ran toward 27th Street.

Officer Walthall ran after Jennings, ordering him to halt. The officer fired one time.

Officer Vance said he had previously prosecuted Jennings on a grand Larceny charge.

'Justifiable Homicide' is Coroner's Verdict

The slaying of a 21 year-old Negro by police officers who fired after the Negro had fled from police custody, has been ruled a justifiable homicide by Coroner Joe L. Hilderband.

Robert James 1108 Third Alley North, was killed early Wednesday morning after police said he attempted to escape. He had been arrested on suspicion of burglary.

Detective Lt. C. L. Pierce had previously pointed out that while police officers are never "ordered to shoot" but may take any means necessary to apprehend or stop a fleeing felon.

Police And Shooting

Birmingham News

Birmingham [illegible]

The job of patrolling Birmingham's streets, especially at night, is not an easy one. Some sections of the city are poorly lighted. Police officers are constantly faced with the necessity of entering alleys, of making their way through dangerous passageways. There are often bad characters at large who hesitate at nothing to gain their ends. Vicious men, both black and white, roam the streets at night. The record of crimes committed is ample proof of these facts.

Police officers are armed. They carry guns for their own defense. Police Chief Eddins has made this statement: "No officer has an order to shoot anyone at any time, but he has the authority to use what force he deems necessary to prevent the escape of a felon." The statement is subject to various interpretations, but it indicates that officers are presumed to be men of judgment who should be able to decide when to shoot and when not to shoot. If an officer is convinced that his own life is in danger no one could rightly blame him for making use of his gun. Nevertheless the life of a human being should not be taken without clear justification. Sat. 1-1-49

* * *

Very early on Wednesday morning a Negro was shot and killed by two Birmingham policemen. The Negro, police report, was fleeing from arrest after admitting that he had stolen two cases of soft drinks from a locked enclosure. The cases in question had a value of $2.60. The Negro was in police custody. The official report on the matter does not say that he was armed or unarmed, but it is to be assumed that when the officers apprehended him they searched him and removed any weapon he may have had. While in police custody, the man broke and ran. He refused to halt on command. The officers fired, killing the Negro.

Yesterday morning Coroner Joe L. Hilderbrand returned a finding of justifiable homicide.

The police report says that the culprit had broken in a locked enclosure—an outdoor storeroom surrounded by a high fence and fastened with a padlock. Thus the Negro was evidently guilty of the crime of burglary, which is a felony. It is declared he admitted his guilt to the arresting officers.

But apparently he had not actually endangered the lives of the officers. His identity was known. Had he escaped, it is presumed that he could have been arrested at a later time.

Records show that he had been in trouble with the law before: In 1944 he was convicted on a charge of possessing untaxed liquor. In 1946 he was arrested for grand larceny, but a week later was released. In 1947 he was arrested for burglary and grand larceny. Later that charge was reduced to petty larceny; he was fined $50 and costs. Again in 1947 he was arrested for burglary and grand larceny, a charge shortly changed to unauthorized meddling with an automobile. He was fined $100 and costs and sentenced to 180 days. While serving that charge he escaped, owing the city 257 days. In July, 1947, he was arrested on a charge of robbery and city escape. He was released under that charge. In 1948 he was arrested on a charge of grand larceny, later changed to carrying a concealed weapon. He was fined $100 and costs on the weapons charge.

Thus it is brought out that he was a dangerous character. Did the officers who arrested him on Wednesday morning know all these facts at the time? The fact remains that he was running *away* from the officers at the time he was killed. The officers' lives seemingly were not in danger at the moment he was killed. Sat-1-1-49

13C

* * *

The News is particularly concerned about this killing because on the same night it occurred the same two officers participated in the apprehension of another Negro, who was seriously wounded, and who, they said, fled from inside a business establishment as they sought to arrest him. He, too, "failed to heed the halt-order voiced by investigating officers." That man was still alive, but was in critical condition at this writing. In this case, too, the lives of the policemen do not appear to have been in danger.

There have been several similar incidents in the last year in Birmingham. Many Birmingham citizens are disturbed at what has appeared to be too great a willingness on police officers' part to shoot to kill. Despite the coroner's report, this paper is inclined to believe that the men who shot the Negroes in these two cases displayed faulty judgment.

Policemen perform difficult services, often under dangerous circumstances, but they are expected to keep their heads at all times. If there were properly qualified Negro officers on the force to patrol Negro sections, the general problem might be better met.

Negro's Slaying Ruled Justifiable Homicide

Advertiser

TUSCALOOSA, ALA., Nov. 21 —(AP) —A finding of justifiable homicide has been returned by Coroner Sam Hardin in the slaying of a 22-year-old Negro man by a Tuscaloosa city policeman. The Negro was Eugene Martin, and the policeman, George Snyder, 27.

Tues. 11-22-49

The coroner said his investigation showed that the officer fired in self defense when the Negro was pulling a pistol from his pocket. Snyder was attempting to arrest the Negro Saturday on a disorderly conduct charge, Hardin said, adding that a loaded pistol and two switchblade knives were found on the Negro's body.

Montgomery Ala.

Martin recently was fined $25 in city court on a charge of assault with a weapon.

Clear Alabama Cop In Slaying

Defender

TUSCALOOSA, Ala.—A white police officer who killed a Negro youth two weeks ago was cleared last Tuesday in connection with the fatal shooting.

Sat. 12-10-49

13C

Policeman George Snyder, 27, was absolved of killing 22-year-old Eugene Martin, who was shot down by the officer Saturday, Nov. 19.

Chicago Ill.

Coroner Sam Hardin termed the slaying "justifiable" homicide.

EX-STUDENT INDICTED

Afro-American

[illegible]

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.— Isaac Morris, a former student, was held under bond last week following indictment by the Leon County Grand Jury on charges of assault with intent to criminally attack a student at Florida A & M College last November.

13c 1949

Negroes by Policemen (Florida)

Kills Two Negroes, Jacksonville Cop Faces Civil Suit

Daily World

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — (INS) — A police official accused of taking the lives of two Negroes without due process of law faces trial in Jacksonville's Federal District court for allegedly violating their civil rights.

Atlanta Ga.

The officer, chief Albert O. Sistrunk of Greenville, previously was cleared of manslaughter charges in the deaths of the Negroes last December.

Sat. 7-16-49

Federal Judge Dozier Devane Friday denied four motions made by Sistrunk's attorneys to have the case dismissed against him because, they said, he was charged with two separate offenses in one grand jury indictment.

The charges arose in the deaths of Miles Smith and Simon Preacher Johnson last December after he tried to arrest him.

Policeman And Fireman Held Without Bond

Atlanta Daily World

13c

Atlanta, Ga

BY MARION E. JACKSON.

MANCHESTER, Ga. — Mrs. Minnie Kate Terry, widow of Sam Terry who was fatally shot Saturday in the Manchester City Jail, said she "begged for the life of her husband" in swearing out a warrant for C. H. Rogers a policeman and Felton Avery, a fireman.

The two men are being held in the Meriwether County Jail without bond, pending further investigation of the shooting.

Mrs. Terry accused the arrested policeman of having cursed Terry and slapped him in her presence while stating "You don't want your wife in jail?"

Thurs. 3-3-49

The widow alleged that her husband pleaded "You got her here why don't you lock her up?"

Then, she said "They hit him and knocked him into a little room and immediately after the door closed I heard the shots ring out."

OVER A DOLLAR

More light was shed on the events that led up to the shooting. Mrs. Terry stated that J. Milbrooks came to their home last Saturday. While there he reportedly got in an argument with Tom Terry, 27-year-old brother of the slain man over a dollar. She said she tried to give him the dollar back and he left without taking it to call the police.

When the policemen arrived about 4:30 P. M. to investigate the disturbance, her husband who was suffering from the mumps, was placed under arrest along with Tom Terry, J. Milbrooks and herself.

"As I got in the car the men shoved me. My husband asked them 'not to shove me around 'and they drew pistols on him and started to beat him."

The slain man died in a hospital LaGrange, Ga. A Manchester doctor that treated him said he was shot three times in the back and once in the side.

SHOOTING DEPLORED

Swift condemnation of the shooting has come from the Manchester Ministerial Association. The group deplored the shooting and called for "a thorough and impartial investigation."

Expressing sympathy for the wife and children of the victim and the officer charged with the shooting, the resolution said: it is not our purpose to judge or place responsibility for this tragic affair."

The resolution continued with "due to conflicting statements from both sides and on behalf of law-abiding citizens of Manchester, we urge a thorough and impartial investigation."

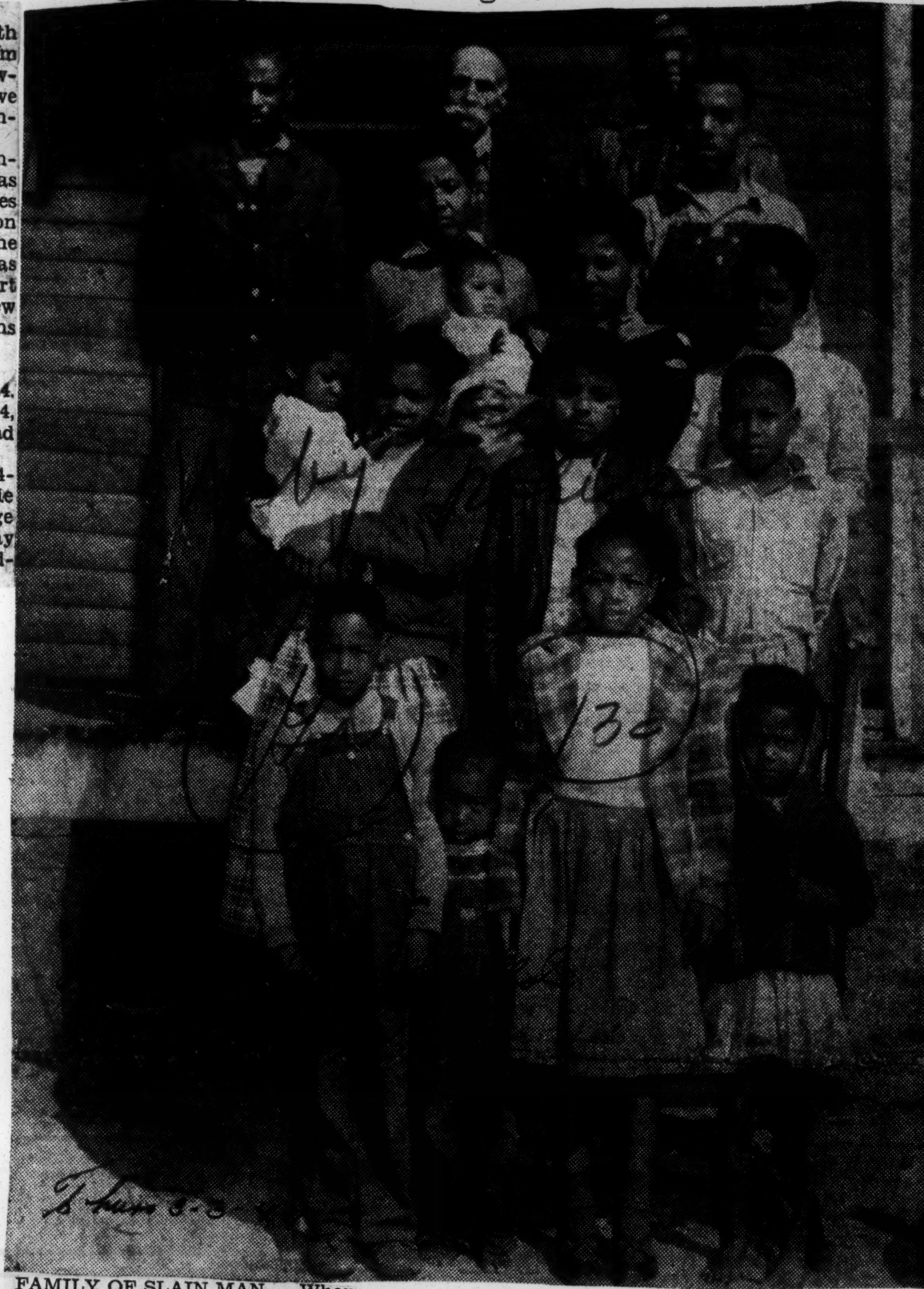
Terry's body is at Millings Funeral Home in Manchester. He was discharged from the United States Army at Fort Lewis, Washington on November 23, 1946. While in the service of his country, he served as a longshoreman with the 863rd Port Company in Hollandia Dutch New Guinea. He served 1 year, 9 months and 7 days.

13c

A LARGE FAMILY

Terry supported a family of 14. He had four children Bernice 14, Sam Frank, 12, Tom Terry 9, and James Edwards 4.

Also living with him was his 74-year-old father-in-law Charlie Reeder, a brother Willie George Reeder, 24, Roy Lee Reeder, 17, May Lee Reeder 15 and Jessie Mae Reeder 12.


13c

Thurs 3-3

FAMILY OF SLAIN MAN — When Sam Terry was slain by two men in the Manchester City Jail, he left 14 members of his family without support and assistance. Pictured here are the tragic survivors before their three-room home on the outskirts of Manchester. The family is almost destitute as the slain man was their main support. The whole story stems from an argument over a "dollar bill," which caused law enforcement officers to be called to quell a reported "disturbance." —(Perry Photo).

Victim, 37, Shot 3 Times in Back, Once in Side

Afro American

13c

N by Police

Names Officer as Trigger Man, Fireman as Aide Before Dieing; Wife Tells Threat. . .

Baltimore Maryland

MANCHESTER, Ga. (NNPA)—Georgia has done it again!

Sam Terry, 37, a combat veteran of World War II, died Feb. 27 in a hospital in La Grange, after being fatally shot three times in the back and once in the side inside the city jail here on Feb. 26.

Sat. 3/12/49

Motorcycle Policeman C. H. Rogers, who arrested the veteran and his wife, Mrs. Minnie K. Terry, and Felton Avery, a fireman, were arrested on March 1, in connection with the fatality and placed in Meriwether county jail in Greenville.

Before he died, Terry allegedly told a local doctor who treated him that both the policeman and the fireman beat him before he was shot by the officer.

Mrs. Terry said she and her husband were arrested at their home when the officer and the fireman answered a call to stop a disturbance there.

Wife Tells of Threat

She stated that her husband, ill with the mumps, resented them shoving her into the car to take them to jail.

Prior to that, she declared, they both drew guns on her husband and threatened to kill him when they placed them under arrest.

"When we arrived at the jail," Mrs. Terry charged, "the fireman shoved my husband into the small room, went in behind him, and slammed the door. I heard five shots fired immediately thereafter."

Officer's Alibi

The police officer gave the usual "self defense" alibi as an excuse for the shooting. He said he fired at the veteran when he lunged at the fireman with a knife he grabbed from a nearby table.

Sheriff Gill, who placed the officer and the fireman under arrest reluctantly because of public pressure, approved their conduct by saying he thought they "did their duty."

White Pastors Irked

Two groups have demanded an investigation of the incident.

In a resolution adopted and signed by every member of the local white Ministerial Association, the fatal shooting was deplored and the group called for a "thorough and impartial investigation."

Conflicting Stories

Expressing sympathy for the veteran's wife and children, the white ministers said:

"Due to conflicting statements from both sides, and on behalf of the law-abiding citizens of Manchester, we urge a thorough and impartial investigation by the proper authorities."

The chairman of the Citizens Defense Committee of Georgia said the organization will investigate the circumstances of the shooting.

Ex-GI Slain In Jail Cell

Pittsburg Courier

13c

(Special to The Pittsburgh Courier)

MANCHESTER, Ga.—A policeman and fireman, both white, were held under $500 bond last week in connection with the Manchester city jail lynching of Sam Terry, a combat veteran of World War II.

Pittsburg Pennsylvania

Mrs. Minnie Kate Terry, widow of the slain man, swore out warrants for C. H. Rogers, a policeman, and Felton Avery, a fireman, in connection with the Feb. 26 lynching, which has been widely deplored throughout the State. They were arrested and held without bond until bound over to Meriwether County grand jury on manslaughter charges following a magistrate's hearing.

Sat. 3/12/49

Mrs. Terry said she pleaded for the life of her husband from a next door cell before the fatal shots rang out.

According to Mrs. Terry, there had been an argument between her husband's young brother, Tom, and one J. Millbrooks over a small amount of money. The amount was said to be a dollar. Mrs. Terry said she attempted to give the money to the man, but that he insisted on taking the matter to police. When officers arrived they arrested the Terry brothers, Millbrooks and Mrs. Terry.

The young widow said her husband resented the way the police shoved her into their car and that they started beating him in her presence after drawing their pistols.

Hardly had the quartet been lodged in jail when the policeman and fireman, who unexplainedly got into the picture, started taunting Terry about his not wanting his wife shoved around and locked up, Mrs. Terry said. Her husband was rushed into a small next door cell and while she pleaded for his life five shots rang out, she told The Courier. The combat veteran, with three wounds in his body, was taken from the cell and rushed to LaGrange Hospital where he died the next day.

On his deathbed, Terry accused the officer and fireman of threatening and beating him. He had been ill with the mumps prior to arrest.

Both the policeman and fireman claimed that Terry lunged at them with a knife once they had him inside the room. No knife was found in the first investigation.

The County Sheriff was among the first to issue a statement that Terry was a "bad Negro" and that the officers only did their duty.

Terry reportedly supported a family of fourteen, including four of his own children, an aged father-in-law and other brothers.

Corroboration of Terry's deathbed claim that the policeman and fireman beat him before shooting him fatally was made by two other persons in the jail at the time.

The Manchester Ministerial Association passed a resolution condemning the slaying.

The slain veteran served in Dutch New Guinea, as a longshoreman during World War II. He was discharged at Fort Lewis, Wash., in 1946.

Three Shots In Back Fatal To Veteran, 37

Atlanta Daily World

Atlanta Ga.

N by Police

Dying Man Tells Physician He Was Beaten And Shot

Tues. 3-1-49

MANCHESTER, Ga. -- A 37-year-old combat veteran of World War II died in a LaGrange hospital Sunday from bullet wounds alleged to have been inflicted by a Manchester policeman inside the city jail here Saturday. Tues. 3-1-49

The dead man's name was given as Sam Terry who was reportedly under arrest on a minor charge at the time of the shooting.

According to reports, Motorcycle policeman C. H. Rogers claimed he shot Terry during a scuffle. Policeman Rogers and Felton Avery, a city fireman, were said to have been locked in a small room of the jail with the deceased when Officer Rogers reportedly said he fired at the veteran when he lunged at the fireman with a knife he allegedly grabbed from a nearby table.

However, Terry was said to have confided to local doctor on his death bed that both the policeman and fireman beat him before he was shot by the officer. The doctor said Terry was shot three times in the back and once in the side.

WIDOW GIVES STORY

Mrs. Minnie Kate Terry, widow of the deceased who was also under arrest at the time of the shooting, charged that both white men drew guns on her husband when they arrested them at home and threatened to kill her husband. Upon their arrival at the jail, she claimed the fireman shoved Terry into the small room, went in behind him and slammed the door. She heard the report of five shots almost immediately thereafter, she said. Tues. 3-1-49

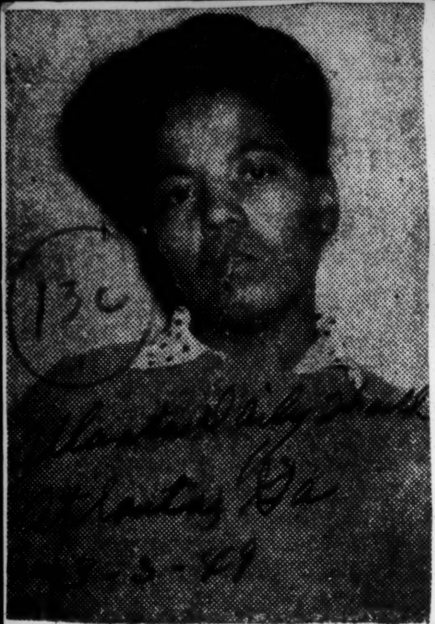
The arrest of the Terrys at their home was said to have resulted when the policeman and fireman answered a call to put down a reported disturbance there. Mrs. Terry said her husband was ill with the mumps and only remonstrated with the officers when they shoved her into the car to take them to jail.

Meanwhile, the chairman of the Citizens Defense Committee of Georgia said his organization would look into the circumstances of the shooting.

13c
N by police

FATALLY SHOT — Sam Terry, 37-year-old veteran of World War II, died in a LaGrange Hospital, after being fatally wounded last Saturday in the Manchester City Jail, by a volley of bullets allegedly fired by C. H. Rogers, a policeman, in a scuffle in a small room at the jail. Terry was said to have lunged at Felton Avery, a fireman, with a knife. Mrs. Minnie Kate Terry denied this report and insisted her husband was beaten and threatened before being shot to death. Terry is holding his infant son, James Edward.

Thurs 3-3-49


13c

Atlanta Daily World
Atlanta Ga
3-3-49

VICTIM'S WIDOW — Mrs. Minnie Kate Terry, widow of Sam Terry, who was killed in the Manchester City Jail. Mrs. Terry states she "begged for his life" to no avail, and stood helplessly in the hall, while blazing bullets took the life of her husband. (Perry Photo).

Disorder Case Suspect Slain By Policeman

13-A

Constitution

Atlanta Ga. Sun.
5-3-49

Ga

Joe Henry Wright, 25-year-old Negro, of R-430 Washington St., S. W., was killed last night by a patrolman attempting to place him under arrest.

Homicide detectives also reported a Negro shot to death by a Negro woman. There were several assault cases reported by officers.

Patrolman W. F. Neal said he and Patrolman K. A. Wooster were called to the Wright address to investigate a disorder. Wooster placed one prisoner in the patrol car and remained to guard him while Neal went in search of Wright.

Wright was lying down across a bed in a dark room, Neal said. The patrolman added when he attempted to rouse Wright, the Negro lunged at him with a switchblade knife and ripped the pocket on the patrolman's shirt.

The Negro continued to lunge at him with the knife, Neal related. The patrolman said he fired one time as he backed away from the knife attacks. The bullet struck Wright in the heart.

H. C. Cross, 37, of 647 Lester St., N. W., was fatally shot at 91-B Walnut St., S. W. Detectives J. E. Helms and W. M. Holland booked Cordie Bell Price, 35, Negro, of the Walnut Street address, on suspicion of murder.

The price woman said Cross came to her home and began beating her. Her daughter, Pauline Price, 11 got a pistol and gave it to her, she related. She fired three times. Two bullets struck Cross in the chest. The third hit him in the head. Sun. 5-5-49

In other assaults, detectives reported four stabbings and two other shootings.

Asks Investigation Of Police Killing

The Defender
Chicago Ill.

WASHINGTON — Mrs. Constance Baker Motley, of the NAACP legal department, last week asked Maceo Hubbard, a lawyer in the Civil Rights section of the Department of Justice, to investigate the murder of a Brunswick, Ga, Negro by two policemen.

Willie Johnson was killed May 3, by two Brunswick policemen who charged that "he was suspicious at a house." "Such an incident," Mrs. Motley said, "could possibly be a violation of the Federal Civil Rights Statutes."

Sat. 5-14-49

The 58-year-old murdered man had been a resident of Brunswick for 14 years.

A Human Tragedy

The World Atlanta, Ga.

13c

Ga

What civilized man or woman, boy or girl, black or white, could fail to be deeply moved by the stark tragedy faced by children and other dependents of the late Sam Terry, 37 year-old veteran, who is alleged to have been slain in a Manchester, Georgia jail last Saturday evening. Here we have a family of 12 children, the oldest being 13 and the youngest 4 yrs. old, together with a father-in-law who has passed his 73rd birthday, together with his wife and a younger brother, all of whom were solely dependent upon the slain man for their material support. The situation becomes all the more tragic when we consider the conditions under which Terry met his death.

Reports show that an argument between Tom Terry, his brother, and a white man over a "dollar bill." The story from that point on is so childish and immature as to create wonder in the minds of the most casual observer as to the basis for so simple a matter. On the surface, much more than a dollar bill appears to have been involved. The accounts do not point to this conclusion. Fri. 3-4-49

Terry is the second Negro prisoner reported to have been shot in jail within the past year and a half. Several months past Gilbert was reported slain for advancing on the officer. Again, the same charge is made as a basis for Terry's death, although he is said to have been shot three times in the back. Cases like these provide the logic for immediate passage of adequate civil rights legislation to halt lynching. Walter White, executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said wisely that the number of lynchings has, not declined, but have rather gone "underground" in the form of police brutality and the like. There is but one answer for this sad and tragic commentary upon our enforcement machinery in the South, and that is to head it off in Washington by passing legislation for that purpose. For the will for justice and fairplay to the Negro is nowhere apparent in the attitude and spirit of those who are charged with the responsibility of enforcing the law. There are exceptions to be sure, but the rule is against justice and fairplay.

Justice Dept. Probe Of Brunswick Slaying Asked

13c

Atlanta Daily World

NEW YORK—Investigations by the Department of Justice of the murder of a Brunswick, Ga., Negro by two policemen was requested this week by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Sun. 6-29-49

In a letter to Maceo Hubbard of the Civil Rights Section of the Justice Department, Mrs. Constance Baker Motley of the NAACP legal department urged action on an earlier NAACP request for investigation of the murder for "possible violation of the Federal Civil Rights Statutes."

Sun. 5-29-49

Willie Johnson, the murdered man, was killed at eight o'clock on the evening of May 3 by two Brunswick policemen who charged that "he was looking suspiciously at a house." Johnson's wife, the NAACP asserts, was not notified of his death until the following morning.

13c

Johnson, 58 years of age, had been a resident of Brunswick for fourteen years, was a county employee, and was a deacon of St. Paul's Baptist Church.

Sun. 5-29-49

Manchester Officer, Fireman Bound Over In Vet's Slaying

The World, Atlanta, Ga. Fri. 3-4-49

$500 Bonds Set; Widow Terms Act Cold-Blooded Murder

The World
Atlanta, Ga.

13c 4 WP

BY MARION E. JACKSON

GREENVILLE, Ga. — (SNS) — Two white men were bound over to the Meriwether County Grand Jury here Wednesday on involuntary Manslaughter charges in connection with the fatal shooting of Sam Terry last Saturday in the Manchester City Jail. Ga. Fri. 3-4-49

The May term of the Grand Jury will hear the presentment against the two men. Bond for the accused men was fixed at $500 each.

The two men are C. H. Rogers, a policeman, and Felton Avery, a fireman, who were arrested after Mrs. Minnie Kate Terry swore out a warrant charging them with murder in connection with the death of her husband.

Sheriff Roger Gill of Meriwether County has reportedly stated that although he arrested the men, he believed they did their duty.

The World

"COLD-BLOODED MURDER."

Meanwhile, Mrs. Terry in an interview with the Atlanta Daily World labeled the slaying of her husband as "cold-blooded murder."

Rogers and Avery are alleged to have pushed Terry into a small room and shot him. The widow said she "begged for his life" outside the door in the hall where she stood with Tom Terry, and J. Milbrooks and a man she identified as "The Chief." Atlanta, Ga.

"It was unnecessary . . . he had a good record . . . and never harmed anybody. Sam Terry was a good provider. A lot of men would have questioned supporting my family and his too, but he acted as though they were his." Mrs. Terry continued in relating the events that led up to her husband's death.

The widow's story was a touching tribute to the slain man who wore the uniform of his country in the United States Army and traveled around the world to Hollandia Dutch New Guinea, only to return home and be cut down by angry bullets in a small room in the town where he was born.

Negro Is Killed In Three-Hour Bout With Police

Birmingham. Ala. News

Aug. 8-19-49

CHICAGO, Aug. 19—(AP)—A barricaded Negro stood off 125 policemen in a three-hour gun battle last night before they riddled him with bullets as he attempted to escape.

He was wanted for shooting a child.

All during the battle, the besieged Negro, Ernest Craig, 28, continued firing from windows with two revolvers and a rifle. Police poured hundreds of bullets and tossed about 200 tear gas bombs into the two-story frame house before the fire started.

*

AS THE FLAMES SPREAD throughout the first floor and started into the upper story, Craig went out a second-story window. He slid to the ground in an 18-inch passageway between his corner home and the neighboring house.

Officers spotted him as he crawled along the narrow opening toward the front of the building. A policeman shouted a warning. Craig fired at him, but missed.

Two detectives returned the fire with chattering machine guns. The Negro's body convulsed as shot after shot struck him. He continued firing until two other policemen moved in and emptied their revolvers into his quivering body.

These shots killed him.

Examination later showed Craig had been struck by at least 18 bullets and several shotgun pellets.

A first attempt to force Craig out of the building failed. The officers tossed flares into the front of the building and as the blaze began to spread detail of policemen moved into the building.

13c Ill

They were forced back by bullets from Craig's guns. Firemen doused the blaze. More gas bombs were thrown in. But Craig stubbornly continued the fight and taunted police to "come in and get me."

The second fire started about half an hour later and it destroyed the interior of the house.

There were reports that police started the fires deliberately to force Craig out. However, they denied this, saying the fires probably were started when flares fired to illuminate the scene ignited the accumulation of tear gas inside the house.

(Negroes by Police)

* * *

TWO POLICEMEN were wounded in the battle. Det. Marshall Pidgeon, 51, was shot twice in the back and once in an ear. Det. Lloyd Nebergall, 46, was wounded in the forehead. Three other officers suffered minor bullet wounds.

The gun battle started after Craig had accidentally wounded 2-year-old Drake Atkins in a wild frenzy of two-gun shooting.

Police said Craig had hired Lawrence Mack, 17, also a Negro, to redecorate his flat. Craig accused Mack of stealing a pistol from the place while he was doing the work. The two argued in Craig's yard.

During the argument, Craig whipped out the pistols and began shooting. Mack dodged and a bullet struck the Atkins child, playing nearby. The Atkins family, also Negroes, occupied a flat in the building with Craig.

After wounding the boy, Craig fled into the house. Soon he began his futile battle with police. Officers said they did not know how other residents of the building escaped.

* * *

THE BATTLE came only two weeks after about 30 police squads surrounded Northwestern Railroad Station in another bullet duel with ex-convict Edward Shumak, 23. Shumak also was cut down in his barricade by police gunfire, but not until after he had wounded three officers.

Neighbors of Craig described him as a man of moods and unpredictable violence. They said that about six weeks ago he ran into the street firing shots at a motorist who had run over his dog. He had been arrested six times for minor offenses.

His wife left him several months ago, neighbors told police, and is believed now living somewhere in the South.

More than 500 spectators watched the battle at 2639 West Washington Boulevard, on the West Side.

Crazed Negro Shot To Death In 3-Hour Seige

Advertiser

10 Injured In Chicago's 'Greatest Gun Battle'; Thousands Watch Fight

Sat. 8-20-49

CHICAGO, Aug. 19—(AP)—In the smoky glare of floodlights, the bullet-riddled body of a crazed Negro gunman was hauled from a narrow areaway between two buildings early today. It marked the end of Chicago's "greatest gun battle."

Montgomery Ala.

The Negro, Ernest Craig, 28, went on the shooting spree when policemen tried to arrest him for shooting a child. He held off more than 200 policemen in a flaming three-hour siege until finally driven from his baricaded home by fire and tear gas. A fusillade of police bullets cut him down.

1 Dead, 10 Hurt

The toll was one dead and 10 injured, including eight policemen. Five officers and a woman spectator were shot. Two officers were burned in the eyes by tear gas and another's arm was cut by shattered window glass. The Negro's home was burned out by fire.

13c Ill

Thousands of spectators, who dodged behind cars and in and out of basements, watched the spectacular battle in the West Side Negro district. Nearly 1,000 rounds of ammunition and 200 tear gas bombs and flares were used.

Negroes by Police

Police Commissioner John C. Prendergast, who narrowly escaped after being trapped in a vicious cross-fire, called it the "greatest and toughest" gun battle in his 43 years on the force.

Wounds Child

Police said Craig took a shot last night at Lawrence Mack, 17, a Negro neighbor he had hired to redecorate his home. He accused Mack of stealing one of his pistols. However, the shot went wild, the bullet slightly wounding Drake Atkins, a 2-year-old Negro child.

When detectives went to Craig's home he fired at them and missed. Some 40 squads of reserves were called in and the siege was on.

Craig, armed with two pistols, ran wildly from the front to rear of his home, firing from the windows. Police poured a steady fire into the windows from machine guns, rifles and pistols.

Craig dropped into the areaway between houses a few minutes later and tried to flee. He was killed instantly, hit by nearly 20 bullets.

13c 1949 Negroes by Policemen (**Indiana**)

500 AT GARY RALLY ASSAIL COP'S SLAYING OF NEGRO

Daily Worker
New York

GARY, Indiana, April 18.—Five hundred Negro and white citizens at a community rally at St. Paul's Baptist Church adopted resolutions calling for the prosecution of a trigger-happy policeman who killed a young Negro named Palmer and also calling for a delegation to the county prosecutor; freedom for the Trenton Six; an end to job discrimination against Negroes and for a cleanup of graft, vice and corruption in Gary.

Ind. 4-19-49

The mass meeting, called on the initiative of Rev. L. K. Jackson, pastor of St. Paul's, heard representatives of the CIO Steelworkers, YPA and Progressive Party.

The Rev. Jackson condemned both Democrats and Republicans for their betrayal of election promises to the Negro people on civil rights. He condemned President Truman for taking a vacation in Florida while the life and death question of civil rights was being debated in Congress and praised Henry Wallace for his forthright stand on the civil rights issue.

Mrs. Eleanore Kates, state chairman of the Young Progressives of America, outlined the difficulties young people face in the search for jobs.

Lawrence Meskimen, Lake County chairman of the Progressive Party, urged the appointment of Negroes to the police and park boards; end of job discrimination; state and federal financed housing projects; building of a county hospital with free clinics in all the major cities of the county; opening of all present parks and beaches to all citizens without discrimination and the building of more parks and beaches to meet the needs of a growing and expanding community. He contrasted the huge war budget with appropriations for the social and educational needs of the people.

When Meskimen concluded his remarks, Rev. Jackson turned to him and said, "You have been labeled a 'red' but if what you stand for is red, give me more of it."

4-19-49

Norman Harris of East Chicago spoke for the CIO. He had no program to offer. He tried to whitewash Truman and the 81st Congress.

SLAIN AFTER HE WOUNDS TWO IN SHOOTING SPREE

Times Picayune

(13c) N. by Policemen

New Orleans La

Gunman Is Struck by Four Police Bullets

La.

A 26-year-old Negro was killed by police at the Fifth Precinct station after a wild shooting spree in the St. Bernard and Miro area during which he shot and wounded a bus driver and a patrolman.

The dead man was identified as Joe Taylor, 1855 Duels. His victims were Walter Lee Lanier, 28, 315 Aris, Metairie, who received a flesh wound on a leg, and patrolman Charles Polite, 29, 1443 Spain, who was shot twice in the left leg.

Taylor, who was subdued by police after he terrorized the St. Bernard neighborhood, was killed at the precinct station after he had wrenched a gun out of the holster of one of the arresting officers, police said.

Police said that Taylor had just been driven up to the precinct station by patrolman William Dudenhefer, 3155 Royal, and Richard Bird, 2128 Bartholomew, and was getting out of the patrol car when he grabbed the gun from Bird's holster.

Bullet Pierces Heart

Dudenhefer, who was still in the car as Bird waited for Taylor to get out, immediately pulled out his own gun and shot Taylor. Police said that the man was shot four times, one of the bullets piercing his heart.

Taylor entered the St. Bernard bus at Broad about 12:40 p. m., Lanier said. Threatening to kill all white persons on the bus (Lanier and a small boy were the only white riders) the man pointed a gun at the driver's back and pulled the trigger, he added.

When the gun jammed, Lanier swerved the bus against the curb and pulled the emergency brake, he related. Taylor, who had been knocked from his feet by the jolt, fired at the fleeing bus driver from a prone position. The bullet struck him above the left ankle.

With Taylor in pursuit Lanier raced to a service station at St. Bernard and Miro and stretched out on the floor of a restroom after locking the door, he said.

Gunfire Disperses Crowd

Called from his hiding place to assist in a search for the Negro, Lanier joined Polite and Sgt. Thomas Ford, 38, 925 Homedale, on the St. Bernard neutral ground.

A crowd, estimated at 150 persons by Polite, quickly dispersed when Taylor reappeared "suddenly from nowhere." In a rapid exchange of gun fire, Polite was hit below and above the left knee. Ford said that he fired several times while Polite remembered shooting at the man four times. Taylor was about 15 feet away when he came upon them and began shooting, Polite reported.

Chased behind the Circle theater, Taylor was headed off by the patrol car of Bird and Dudenhefer, Ford said. Neither group could fire, he said, for fear of hitting other policemen. Taylor tried to shoot again but his gun was out of ammunition.

After being physically subdued, Taylor was put into a police car while Ford aided the wounded Polite.

Mon - 7-7-49

Four Bullets in Body

Taylor's yells to the crowd for help prompted Bird to race to the precinct station with the siren shrieking. Dudenhefer said that Taylor fought and cursed intermittently during the whole ride.

As Bird assisted Dudenhefer in getting the man from the car, Taylor grabbed the gun from Bird's holster and leveled it at Bird. Dudenhefer said that he drew on Taylor and "shot four times rapid fire." Bird's gun immediately spun from the man's hand, he added.

The coroner's office said that all four bullets lodged in Taylor's body. Twenty-three loaded shells were found in the dead man's pockets.

Police at the Fifth Precinct said that Taylor's gun was Italian-made. They reported that he was also carrying an old pistol, which was found at the shooting scene.

A bitter attack on Sen. Russell Long and his fight against the civil rights program prefaced Taylor's attempted shooting of Lanier.

Judge Clears Policeman in Slaying of Youth, Calls NAACP 'Agitators'

Afro American 13C

Mich

Baltimore Maryland

City-Wide Mass Meeting Mapped to Protest Police Brutality, Official Handling of Case

Jan 1-1-49

DETROIT—In a ruling made unique because it contained so many bitter denunciations of the local NAACP branch, Judge Arthur E. Gordon of Recorders Court on Dec. 20 acquitted Patrolman Louis Melasi of manslaughter charges in the killing of a 15-year-old boy, Leon Mosley.

The judge not only acquitted the officer who had been suspended from the force from June 4, the time of the shooting, until the termination of the trial, but he gave him a judicial mandate to go forth and kill again, with the words, "The defendant should be commended as an alert police officer."

Officer Melasi was restored to the force with back pay totaling $2,021, last Tuesday.

Smears Civic Group

Among the charges hurled at the NAACP, which sponsored action against the officer-slayer, by the jurist, was the one that the civic group was interested in helping in the case so it could raise funds to buy the owner of the automobile, allegedly stolen by the slain youth, another car.

Outraged at the denunciation of it by a judge sitting upon a case in which it was not a direct party, the NAACP's board of directors, in a meeting last Tuesday, voted to call a city-wide mass meeting of interested organizations to discuss police brutality.

The board, asserting that Judge Gordon's attacks upon it were an unwarranted "smear," also protested the manner in which the case against Patrolman Melasi was presented by the prosecution.

Judge Assails Witnesses

More than 30 witnesses testified during the four-day trial, one group of whom Judge Gordon charged were "instructed by Ernest Goodman, the brains of Maurice Sugar's law office in the Barlum Tower," to which they had been herded by "pinks" in the NAACP.

Jan 1-1-49

The sequence of events on the fatal night of June 5 established that Mosley left a dance at Miller High School, where he was a pupil, about five minutes after he arrived there.

Later, squad car officers saw him weaving wildly through traffic at Vernor Hy. and St. Aubin Ave., several blocks away, and gave chase to the car, which finally crashed into a tree on Waterloo St., where upon the youth was surrounded by several officers.

Evidence of Beating

He broke away from the officers, several witnesses testified, and was shot in the back by Patrolman Melasi.

Mosley had a fractured skull as well as a bullet wound, when his body was examined at Receiving Hospital; and almost a dozen of the witnesses testified that he had been beaten by officers both before and after he had been shot.

Blood on the barrel of Patrolman Melasi's service revolver was never explained during the trial; and one of the witnesses, Ruben Williams, said he saw Mosley struck about the head with a shiny object by a policeman after he fell.

Jan 1-1-49

In summing up, Judge Gordon, labeled the group of witnesses that testified they saw Mosley beaten as "dramatic." He called a second group rounded up by police as defense witnesses, "quiet, sober" people.

Holding Mosley's erratic driving and refusal to stop when being pursued by the squad car as ample reason for thinking him a thief in the act of committing a felony, the judge cleared Melasi of all guilt in his slaying.

13c 1949 Negroes by Policemen (Mississippi)

Patrolman Under Bond In Shooting Of Negro

13c N by Police

FOREST, Miss., Feb. 26—(AP)—A State Highway Patrolman is under $2,500 bond here for action by the Scott County Grand Jury next month in the fatal shooting of a Negro.

Sheriff B. O. Myers said Highway Patrolman J. V. Hines shot and killed Ulmer Williams, 25, Forest Negro Thursday night.

The sheriff said Hines and witnesses told him Williams was one of a group of Negroes the patrolman had ordered to turn on their automobile tail lights.

The Negro rushed at the officer, Myers said witnesses told him, and Hines drew his revolver and fried twice.

SHERIFF INVESTIGATES KILLING OF EXCONVICT

Commercial Appeal

(13c)

Negro Not A Fugitive—Town Marshal Refuses Details

HOLLANDALE, Miss., Feb. 14.—(UP)—The body of a negro exconvict was unclaimed Monday night while Sheriff Hugh Foote investigated the report of his fatal shooting by arresting officers as a case of mistaken identity.

First definite facts of the shooting came from Marvin Wiggins, superintendent of the Mississippi Penal Farm at Parchman. Wiggins denied that the negro was a fugitive.

Tues 2-15-49

The negro, identified as Hollis Washington, was killed Sunday reportedly for "resisting arrest" outside the town jail.

Fooote said that he lacked details. Wiggins said that he had merely received the sheriff's report of the shooting, relaying the information that Washington was not wanted, that the negro had completed a four-year term for grand larceny.

Memphis Tenn

Town Marshal J. N. Tackett, in whose jurisdiction the negro was killed, declined details.

"There was no shooting," Tackett said. "There was a 'cuttin'."

The marshal was said to be "out of town visiting an ailing relative.

HELD IN POTATO SLAYING

(13c)

Negro Schoolboy Reported Admits Hitting Chinese

Commercial Appeal

Sun 3-6-49

GREENVILLE, Miss., March 5.—Chief of Police C. A. Hollingsworth said Saturday afternoon that Alex Clark, 18-year-old negro schoolboy, is being held in city jail after he admitted the Nov. 30, 1948, "sweet potato" slaying of an aged Chinese grocer.

Memphis Tenn

Arrested Saturday morning by Officer C. C. Kennamer, Clark under questioning by Sergt. Bill Rankin admitted he struck Jeu Sing on the head with a sweet potato taken from a bin in the store when he argued with the grocer over change. Mr. Sing died in a hospital several weeks after he had been struck.

Chief Hollingsworth said further investigation is being conducted before a charge is placed against the negro.

OFFICERS ACQUITTED IN SLAYING OF NEGRO

The Commercial Appeal

Memphis Tenn

13c

Armed Victim Went On Spree At Clarksdale

Tues 5-17-49

Special To The Commercial Appeal

CLARKSDALE, Miss., May 16.—Three Clarksdale policemen were exonerated Monday in the slaying of Willie D. Broadway, negro, of Rome, Miss., who embarked on a lawless spree here Sunday night, threatening one white man and two negroes at the point of a gun.

Officers killed Broadway after he fled in his car to the lawn of Mr. and Mrs. Charles G. Bobo.

Justice of the Peace W. R. Ellis rendered a verdict of justifiable homicide after hearing the testimony exonerating Officers [illegible] W. Amos, Clyde Mays and J. E. Bolen.

Tues 5-17-49

Broadway narrowly missed running down Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Higginbotham and their daughter, who were walking near Dublin. After passing the trio, he stopped his car and returned to the pedestrians, speaking disrespectfully to Mr. Higginbotham. As the three walked away he fired at them, but missed.

Broadway then stopped two cars containing negroes at the point of a gun. Joe Ross, one of the victims, escaped and notified police.

When cornered by officers he refused to surrender, and fired at Officer Mays, but missed. The three officers then shot into the car, killing Broadway.

Tues 5-17-49

The negro was employed on the A. J. Hill plantation at Rome.

13c 1949 Negroes by Policemen (New York)

Negro Killed by Off-Duty Cop

Daily Warker New York

13c

Mrs. Dorothy Brown, widow of a Negro killed Sunday by an-off duty cop in civilian clothes, yesterday bitterly denounced her husband's death as a "crime before God and man." The dead man, Richard D. Brown, 27, was slain by 28th Precinct Patrolman Abraham Yudenfreund, who also shot Brown's cousin James Taylor, 26, all of 37 W. 118 St.

According to Mrs. Brown, she and her husband had an argument at the corner of 115th Street and Fifth Avenue when Yudenfreund came out of Eddie Bar and Grill, 1408 Fifth Avenue, and struck Brown. 13c 6-14-49

"Nobody knew that strange white man was a cop, so Jimmy and my husband hit him too." Yudenfreund, felled in the scuffle, then pulled his gun, without identifying himself as an officer and shot Brown three times in the neck, face and chest, and Taylor once in the groin. Brown died later at Harlem Hospital and Taylor was treated in the prison ward of Bellevue Hospital and charged with felonious assault. 6-14-49

The policeman, Mrs. Brown declared, "meant to kill. He didn't have to shoot to stop the argument.

"They wouldn't even let me talk to my husband when he was dying on the sidewalk."

Mrs. Brown was kept overnight at the 28th Precinct.

Yudenfreund was put on the "sick list" and sent home to Coney Island, as in previous case when a cop has killed or beaten a Negro.

Taylor is the father of six children and had just landed a job, for he was to report today, Mrs. Catherine Taylor, his wife, said today. Jul. 6-14-49

"I'm going to Ben Davis to see if he can't help my husband. He's the man that fights for colored people I hear," Mrs. Taylor declared.

Plan B'klyn Rallies On Police Terror

Daily Worker

Brooklyn Negro and inter-racial organizations will hold street meetings to protest the police killing of Herman Newton, a 22-year-old Negro father, it was announced Friday.

The body of Newton, slain by Patrolman Donald Mullen, was on the way home for burial in Richland, S. C. Accompanying the body were Mrs. Lottie Newton, widow of the slain man, and his sister, Dorothy, who were eyewitnesses to the killing. They will return today or tomorrow to testify before a Kings County Grand Jury. Mon. 6-6-49

A mass meeting will be held Friday on the steps of the Newton home by the Congress of American Women, the American Labor Party, the Communist Party, the Bedford-Stuyvesant Tenants Council, the Civil Rights Congress and other groups. 6-6-49

The NAACP has called a public conference June 27 on police terror. This meeting will be at the Second AME Zion Church, Thompkins Avenue and Fulton St., at 6:30 p.m.

B'klyn Negro Shot Dead by Cops

Daily Worker

George Widell, 29-year-old Negro father, was shot in the back and killed Saturday morning by a Brooklyn policeman.

Widell was slain in the basement at 12 Hancock St. in the presence of his wife, Doretta, who pleaded with a detective not to shoot her husband.

Witnesses declare that two detectives forced their way into the basement home of James Salter, about 1 p.m. Saturday, claiming they were looking for "a poker game." Mon. 2-21-49

There were several persons present and the detectives lined them up, began frisking them and punching them. Widell protested this treatment and was immediately set upon by both the cops. One beat him with a blackjack. 13c

According to witnesses, Widell was beaten and forced into the kitchen. Mrs. Widell, who was there, suddenly saw a cop aim his gun at Widell's back. She screamed "Don't shoot him!" The detective fired three times. 2-21-49

Widell staggered from the house and fell on the street where his body lay for over three hours before being removed. Police now claim he "aimed" a toy gun at the detectives. Mrs. Widell and other witnesses deny this.

After Widell was shot, the police then arrested George F. Shaw, also of 12 Hancock St. and charged him with assault. He was released on $1,000 bail. He will appear in Brooklyn Felony Court this morning. Others arrested were Joseph Smith and James Augusta Widell, brother of the slain man. The three are charged with disorderly conduct and are under $500 bail. They must appear in court Wednesday. 13c

The American Labor Party has protested the brutal killing, and is working with other community groups to organize widespread protests for justice in the case.

Request For Examination Of Death Minutes Reversed

Daily World Fri. 8-5-49

13c

BROOKLYN -(NNPA)- Judge Nathan R. Sobel of the Kings County Court last Wednesday reversed decision on a request by the Brooklyn Branch of the NAACP for permission to examine the grand jury minutes in the case of a colored man who was shot dead by a white policeman here last Memorial Day.

The Brooklyn NAACP, supported by the Brooklyn division of the American Jewish Congress, petitioned the court to allow James A. Powers, NAACP branch president to examine the grand jury records, expressing doubt in the honesty of the District Attorney, and hinting that the grand jury had cooperated in whitewashing the policeman involved in the shooting.

The request climaxes a series of protests made by the NAACP against police brutality in Kings County. The matter had been brought to the attention of Governor Thomas E. Dewey and a request has been made to the Justice Department to investigate the violence.

WEARING PLAIN CLOTHES

Policeman David Mullen who shot and killed Herman Newton on Memorial Day after he and Newton engaged in a fist fight over a traffic incident and while Mullen was wearing plain clothes.

According to several witnesses, including Mrs. Newton who was with her husband at the time, Newton, not knowing Mullen was a policeman, argued with Mullen when Mullen's car and his car passed each other on a Brooklyn street.

A scuffle ensued, in which witness said, Mullen drew his gun, chased Newton for several blocks, shooting as Newton fled, and mortally wounding him while he lay helpless in a doorway to which he had fled.

Despite such testimony, the policeman was never arrested, or suspended, and no indictment was returned against him by the grand jury.

Lewis S. Flagg, Jr., attorney for the NAACP, filed the request for examination of the records by Powers. Samuel Korb, another NAACP attorney, filed a deposition in which he said he had appeared before the grand jury, presented testimony concerning the killing and told the grand jury that the District Attorney could not be trusted insofar as brutality by policemen is concerned, especially when committed against colored persons.

13c 1949 Negroes by Police (Tennessee)

Watchman Is Killed By Police In Mixup

The News

MEMPHIS, June 27—(AP)—A 72-year-old Negro nightwatchman was fatally wounded Saturday night when he fired on two Memphis policemen whom he apparently thought were burglars.

Police Chief Claude Armour said the officers, Patrolmen R. W. Morris and William C. Gregory, told this story: Birmingham

They were chasing five Negroes who were reportedly molesting a Negro woman in a field back of a lumber yard.

Tenn.

During the chase the officers entered the yard of a neighboring lumber company, and the partly blind watchman there opened fire on them. Ala., June, 6-27-49

* * *

THINKING THE WATCHMAN, Charlie Stewart, was one of the men they were chasing, Morris returned the fire, shooting twice after Stewart had fired five shots.

One of the officer's bullets struck the Negro in the cheek and passed through to his neck. He died at a Memphis hospital yesterday.

Stewart did not have police permission to carry a pistol, Armour said.

Morris and Gregory have been temporarily relieved of duty while the shooting is being investigated Armour added.

13c 1949

Negroes by Policemen (Virginia)

Policeman And Civilian Cleared In Jordan Death

(13c)
Negro by Police
Va

NORFOLK — James Edward Fitzgerald, colored policeman, and William Henry Eppes of the 1200 block of Hanson avenue, both were exonerated when arraigned on homicide charges in Police Court Thursday morning in connection with the death of Warren Jordan, 25, of the 1200 block of Hanson avenue.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Va.

Officer Fitzgerald had at first assumed full responsibility for causing the death, but subsequent events indicated that he probably was not wholly responsible. The question as to how Jordan met his death was cleared up in the police court hearing.

Sat 1-15-49

In the light of the testimony, Officer Fitzgerald, in the line of duty apparently was a party to the killing, but Eppes probably contributed the most to the death.

The policeman was charged with homicide after reporting that he had struck the man with his blackjack after Jordan rushed him with an open knife at an establishment in the 1200 block of East Princess Anne road Christmas afternoon. While the officer was awating a hearing on the charge, on Tuesday afternoon the inquest was held.

At the inquest testimony was adducted indicating that Jordan was struck over the head with part of an automobile exhaust pipe by Eppes after having been hit by the officer, and it was this blow which knocked the man down causing him to suffer a broken neck.

At the Police Court hearing testimony showed that Jordan, believed to have been crazed by drink virtually ran amuck. A merchant operating a notion store in the vicinity who said he was acquainted with the man, testified that Jordan had entered his store and made unsuccessful efforts to purchase an ice pick.

Sat 1-15-49

Further testimony stated that Jordan raving and flashing a knife, upon leaving the store encountered Officer Fitzgerald and Eppes.

Sat 1-15-49

The policeman placed him under arrest, but had to strike him with the blackjack after Jordan attacked the officer with a knife. He then broke away, came upon Eppes and succeeded in cutting this man in two places before Eppes grabbed the piece of pipe and knocked him out.

The white merchant and other witnesses told Police Justice Leonard H. Davis that the dead man had previously borne a good reputation. He had been known as a peaceable character, and they expressed surprise at his conduct on the afternoon he was killed.

Negro Killed In Effort To Take Auto Batteries

Montgomery Advertiser

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Jan. 16 —(AP)— Police said a Negro man was shot and killed last night while attempting to take batteries from a salvage yard here.

Montgomery, Ala.

Detective R. A. McMurdo identified the Negro as Leroy Whatley, 34. McMurdo said the man was shot by Albert Lee Skinner, of Coalburg, Ala., who is employed as a night watchman at the salvage yard.

Mon. 1-17-49

Whatley had already placed five batteries outside the fence surrounding the yard and was shot as he fled with additional ones, McMurdo added.

One Of Participants In Fight With Police Dies Of Bullet Wound

News

One of the Negroes involved in a fight with police when officers sought to search a lottery house died Friday from a bullet wound inflicted by the officers.

The victim is Walter Dandridge, 32, 912 44th Place, North.

He, his mother, Susie, 60, and his brother, John, 44, were shot by the officers. His brother, James, suffered cuts and bruises.

* * *

DETECTIVES T. E. (JOE) LINDSEY and J. R. Davis were attacked by the Negroes when they went to the home with a search warrant Thursday.

Sat. 7-30-49

Susie Dandridge is in Hillman Hospital.

Birmingham, Ala.

She and James and John are charged with assault with intent to murder. James and John are in jail.

The officers said the Negroes attacked Lindsey with a poker and one of them took his gun.

Both officers were injured in the fight.

White Man Hunted Here In Slaying Of Negro On Northside

Birmingham, Ala.

News

Fri. 9-2-49

Police here today sought a white man in the slaying of Tilton Young Pennington, 39, Negro, of 536 West Second Street.

Pennington was shot to death about 5:30 p.m. yesterday in the 1700 block of Ninth Avenue, North.

Officers said John and Elizabeth Larkins, of 921 17th Place, North, gave this account:

Pennington was at their home and they were drinking. A white man came into the house by the back door.

Pennington left by the front door, saying, "Who's that looking for me?"

13c Ala

* * *

THE LARKINS said the two men met in the alley and the white man said, "Stop! Don't come up on me."

Then followed a series of shots which struck Pennington three times in the chest. The white man then got into his car and left. Pennington was taken to Hillman Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

Police have an arrest order out for the white man described as about five feet eight inches tall, weighing about 170 pounds, 30 to 35 years old and wearing a white shirt, overalls and a straw hat.

Lockhart Grocer Held In Shooting Of Negro

Advertiser

ANDALUSIA, ALA., Aug. 14—(AP)—J. R. Henderson, Lockhart, Ala., grocer, is being held in county jail here on charges of first degree murder in the shooting of a Negro man last night.

13c

Sheriff Tom Head said Henderson is charged with the pistol slaying of Bill Hunter, who was found dead on a highway near Florala last night. Head said Henderson claimed self-defense in the shooting.

Mon. 8-15-49

The sheriff quoted Henderson as saying he shot Hunter after the Negro had advanced on him with a knife while they were discussing an account Hunter owed Henderson for groceries.

Montgomery Ala.

Birmingham Negro Dies From Gun Wounds

13c Ala

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Nov. 28 —(AP)—A Negro man shot by a street car conductor Nov. 20 in an argument over sitting in the streetcar's white section died at a Birmingham hospital today.

He was Sammy Lee Williams, 34.

Advertiser

Detective R. A. MacMurdo said Williams was shot by Conductor M. A. Weeks. Both Weeks and Williams were charged with assault with intent to murder after the altercation.

Tues. 11-29-49

MacMurdo said no additional warrant would be sworn against Weeks. The county grand jury is scheduled to investigate the case at its next session.

Montgomery Ala.

Two other Negroes were wounded. MacMurdo said they were hit accidentally.

13c 1949

Negroes by Whites (Arkansas)

MURDER CHARGED TO TWO

Mississippi Soldiers To Be Tried For Killing Negro

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tenn.

FORT SMITH, Ark., March 3.—(AP)—Two Camp Chaffee soldiers Thursday were arraigned before Municipal Judge Thomas C. Pitts on charges of first degree murder.

They were ordered held for Sebastian Circuit Court action in connection with the fatal beating of Will Hendricks, negro, during an altercation in downtown Fort Smith Feb. 5.

Fri. 3-4-49

The soldiers are Recruits Edward E. Flemons of Vance, Miss., and Robert L. Odom of Starkville, Miss.

A DIXIE COURT FINES PAIR $200 EACH IN FATAL BEATING OF NEGRO SHARECROPPER

St. Louis Argus
St. Louis, Missouri

FORT SMITH, Ark., March 28—A first degree murder charge against two Southerners who beat a sharecropper to death was changed to assault and battery and the pair fined $200 each by a jury here last Thursday.

The defendants, Robert Odom and Edward Flemons administered a fatal beating to Will Kendrick February 5, while they were army recruits at Camp Chaffee. Flemons testified that Odom grappled with Kendrick after he had bumped into them and "said something that made me mad." Kendrick died about two weeks later as a result of the beating they gave him. Flemons is from Vance, Mississippi and Odom from Starkville.

13C

The jury reduced the capital charge to a misdemeanor. In the same courthouse, Will Jackson, a Negro was sentenced to three years in prison. Two young white sisters claimed he broke into their house and crawled into bed with them. He denied the charge.

Arraign 2 White GIs In Slaying Of Negro

FORT SMITH, Ark.—Steps were taken to punish the two soldiers who beat Will Hendricks to death here recently.

13C

The recruits, both white, are: Edward E. Fleming of Vance and Robert L. Odom of Starkville. Both of Camp Chaffee, they were arraigned in connection with the murder.

Two Face Murder Charge In Death Of Ark. Negro

13C

Atlanta Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

FORT SMITH, Ark.—(ANP) Two white soldiers, stationed at Camp Chaffee, face first degree murder charges in the fatal beating of a 44-year old Negro several weeks ago.

Wed. 3-2-49

The soldiers, both recruits are Robert L. Odom, Starksville, Miss.; and Edward E. Flemons, Vance, Miss. Their victim, Will Kendricks, died Thursday. He never regained consciousness after the beating.

Both men were arraigned on assault with intent to kill charges originally, but the charges were changed to first degree murder upon Kendrick's death.

White Man Kills One and Wounds Another

The Florida Tattler

Jacksonville Fla. Sat. 3-5-49

(13c) N by W (Fla)

Each person has his or her onw verslon of the shooting that took place on Saturday, February 26, at 6 am, in front of 333 West State St. The stories are so varied that the truth is hard to find.

It was reported that John Macon, 38, of 1038 W. Church St., and Walter Gregory Allen, 48, (white) of Rt. 1, Box 123, had an argument and that Macon struck Allen with the butt of a knife over the eye, Allen gets gun and fires five times, bullets finding their mark in Macon's head. he died on the spot while Leroy Tankie Green, 40, of 1024 Kings Road, an innocent by-stander was shot in the side and rushed to the Duval Medical Center in a very serious condition. The cafe window was peppered by bullets.

Others stated that what took place before the shooting will never be known, and, all that they saw was the actual shooting.

The statements being so mixed and confusing that it is impossible to give an accurate account of what happened.

Allen was arrested and held in the city jail and is now out on bond and charged with manslaughter.

Investigating officers were Detectives E. J. Langdale, C. C Townsend, B. K. Musseau, J. M. Parker, police Sgt. J R. Jenkins and patrolmen C. I. Beasley and V. J Dickerson. Det. Inspector Tiny Branch was also at the scene of shooting.

The Florida Tattler Sat. 3-5-49 Sat. 3-5-49

Jail White In Negro's Death

The Defender

FORT. MEYERS, Fla.—A circuit court jury last week returned a verdict of guilty in the case of Redden W. Randell, white, who was charged with manslaughter of Theodore Samms, a waiter. The conviction carries a maximum penalty of 20 years imprisonment. Judge Harrison deferred pronouncing sentence for a few days, allowing Randell to stay free on $10,000 bond.

Chicago Ill,

Samms was shot in the heart, in a rented room, in a house owned by Randell. Sat. 6-25-49

Posse Kills Negro In Florida Rape Case

The News, Birmingham Ala.

Tue. 7-26-49

PERRY, Fla., July 26—(AP)—Ernest Thomas, identified as the Ernesto Thomas, identified as the land rape case, was shot and killed by a posse north of here today.

Taylor County Sheriff Bill Towles said Thomas was definitely identified as one of four Negroes who raped a 17-year-old housewife July 16.

POSSE SLAYS ALLEGED RAPIST

Perry, Fla. July 26 (AP)- Ernest Thomas, identified as the fourth Negro in the recent Groveland rape case, was shot and killed by a posse north of here today.

Taylor County Sheriff Bill Towels said Thomas was definitely identified as one of the four who raped a 17-year old housewife July 16 after beating and robbing her husband.

He said Thomas, who has been trailed by a large group of officers since Sunday night was shot whrn he ran after being found asleep in a wooded a area.

The Groveland attack on the young white woman resulted in a reign of terrorism in the community for several days.

The three others charged with the crime are in custody.

SOURCE:

The Courier-Journal
Louisville, Ky.
Wed. 7-27-49.

Mallard Trial Story, Page 3

Chicago Defender
Chicago Ill.

* * *

(13c)

Blame Ga. Whites For Ax-Slaying

Chicago Defender

QUITMAN, Ga.—The brutal ax-slaying of Maceo Smith, 51 year old Negro farmer and insurance broker, who was found murdered in a wood lot behind his home, is described as "another Mallard lynching" by his family and friends, who blame his death on the jealousy of white neighbors.

Smith's body was found Thursday morning by two hunters, the skull split by a blow from an ax and a bullet wound above the right eye. The lights were still on in his house. Police judge from the evidence that he was attacked when he went to the wood lot to replenish his fuel box. His wallet containing a considerable amount of money was untouched.

Sat. 1-22-49

Smith who is a successful farmer and has built up a flourishing insurance business in Quitman, was active in the local NAACP branch and in the registration of Negro voters in the last election.

He is reported to have had trouble recently with white neighbors over these activities and his refusal to sell a parcel of farm land. Before his death he reported threats made against his life to the sheriff of Brooks county.

Smith was a graduate of Lincoln University (Pa.), a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity and the local representative of the Pilgrim Life Insurance company. He was unmarried and survived by two brothers and five sisters.

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2 Victims Cut, Beaten, Shot

(13c)

White Ga. Suspects Called River Rats

Afro American

24-HOUR SEARCH

200 Robbery Motive Confession Made

Sat 4-9-49

(Special to the AFRO)

Baltimore Md

MACON, Ga.—The bodies of two colored citizens, slashed, beaten and bullet-pierced, were fished from two Ocmulgee River swamp lakes last Wednesday by Bibb County deputies who had been searching for the men for almost 24 hours.

They had received a report the men had been driven, at gunpoint and with their hands tied behind them, into the jungle-like swamps by two white men.

Two suspects, both white, have been lodged in the Bibb County jail and charged with murder in the brutal crime. They were listed by Sheriff E. Julian Peacock as John McKinney and Louie Dubose.

Called River Rats

The sheriff described them as "a couple of river rats who live in the filthiest tar-paper shack down in the edge of the river swamp that I have ever seen."

Victims of the brutal robbery-slaying were Jim Mitchell, 65, employed in a local brickmaking plant, and Ivy Lee Parker, 19, whose fishing trip that afternoon, according to Sheriff Peacock's theory, ended in his death because he saw too much.

Chief Deputy Sheriff J. P. Massey said McKinney has made a confession in the case, but he has declined to reveal details of the statement.

Robbery Motive

Investigating officers have listed robbery as the motive for the double slaying. Sheriff Peacock reported $200 in cash was found in one of the suspects' wallets, along with the empty wallets of the two victims, under a clump of bushes near the scene of the slaying.

Mitchell was known to have had $200 on his person the day of the slaying, the sheriff added.

Discovery of the wallets was made in an unusual fashion.

Bibb jailer, Joe Stripling, one of the numerous officers searching for the victims, struck at a snake, with which the swamps are infested, in a clump of bushes. He missed the snake, but the stick he was using hit a tin can, overturned it and exposed the hidden wallets.

Development of Case

Sat 4-9-49

This is the development-by-development Sheriff Peacock gave of the ghastly case:

About 8 p.m., Tuesday, a report was received that two white men had been seen marching two colored men along a clay mine railroad track at the edge of the swamps at gunpoint. The report, given by two unidentified colored witnesses, said the men's hands were tied behind them.

Sheriff Peacock said the two witnesses gave the names of the two white men and a partial description of them.

Deputies sped to the shack where McKinney and Dubose lived with Dubose's brother, but the men were absent. They returned a short time later and were placed under arrest.

The deputies did not question them, but launched an intensive search for Mitchell and Parker, who also had been identified by the witness.

(13c)

All Night Search

The search continued all night and until noon the following day. Leading the hunt were Chief Deputy Massey and Deputies John S. Gibson and E. B. (Tony) Llorens.

About noon, the deputies found Mitchell's body while dragging a small, dirty lake only 400 yards from the suspects's shack. He had been shot in the head, slashed across the temple, throat and abdomen.

Nearby, Parker's knife, bloodstained and covered with leaves, was found jabbed into the ground. It was identified by members of his family who had gone to the scene.

A few minutes later, Jailer Stripling uncovered the wallets and the money.

Sat 4-9-49

Shift Search

The deputies worked in the various lakes in the immediate vicinity until mid-afternoon, when Sheriff Peacock questioned the two suspects for the first time.

On the basis of information provided by one of them, the sheriff said, the search was shifted to a nearby lake and Parker's body was found a few minutes later, about 50 feet from shore in shallow water.

Parker had been shot in the head and, a bone-deep knife wound had been inflicted across his buttocks.

Fate Tricked Parker

Sheriff Peacock said results of the investigation indicate Mitchell was at work plowing in a field near the suspects's shack when they approached him, bent on robbery.

While they were driving him toward the swamp, the sheriff theorized, they met Parker, who had been fishing with a friend who had left earlier. Fearing Parker had seen too much, Sheriff Peacock continued, they trussed his hands behind his back and also marched him to his doom.

The sheriff said the two men may be linked with other unsolved slayings in the eerie, lake-dotted river swamps in the last several years.

Less than a month ago, the body of John H. Ford, who lived in nearby Gray, Ga., was found in the river. A coroner's jury returned a verdict that he met death in an unknown manner.

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2 Held in Double Killing Near Ocmulgee River

(13c) N by Whites

Atlanta Constitution

MACON—(AP)—Sheriff Julian Peacock said last night he is holding two white men in connection with the slaying of two Negroes whose bodies were found in a swamp lake near Macon.

The sheriff identified the men as Louie DuBose and John McKinney. He said they are being held on open charges.

A third man, whose name was withheld, is being held as a material witness.

The sheriff said the three men live in a shack in a swampy area near the Ocmulgee River. Wallets belonging to the slain Negroes, Jim Mitchell, 65, and Ivy Lee Parker. 18. were found near the shack.

Thur. 3.31.49

He said robbery apparently was the motive.

Peacock gave the following account:

Thur. 3.31.49

A Negro reported Tuesday night he saw two white men marching two Negroes at gunpoint toward the swamp area between Macon and the Ocmulgee. From descriptions furnished by the Negro, DuBose and McKinney were arrested.

A search then was launched for the missing Negroes. Officers began dragging the lake and found Mitchell's body. His throat had been cut and his stomach ripped open.

(13c)

Officers questioned DuBose and McKinney and learned from one of them where Parker's body was. The Negro youth's body was recovered from the same lake. He had been shot to death.

The Negroes' wallets and the wallet of one of the white men were found under a can near the suspects' shack. They were uncovered when one of the searchers struck at a snake.

The wallet of the white man contained about $200. Sheriff Peacock said Mitchell was known to have had about $200 on his person.

Thur-3-31-49

Coroner's Jury Holds 2 White Men for River Swamp Murders in Georgia

(13c) N by Whites

Afro-American
Baltimore Maryland

Suspects 'Admit Being Alone at Scene,' Sheriff Says; Grand Jury to Act Apr. 21

Sat 4-16-49

MACON, Ga.—Two white men accused of the brutal slaying of two colored men in the snake-infested Ocmulgee River swamps on March 29, are scheduled to appear before the Bibb County grand jury on Apr. 21.

A coroner's jury earlier this week ordered the pair held on murder charges in the gun-knife deaths.

The jury's verdict followed a double inquest lasting about an hour and 45 minutes at which one of the two men being held denied the charges.

Defendants Defiant

He was Louis Dubose, 45, unshaven, and wearing overalls, khaki shirt and rubber boots. He declared when asked if he wished to make a statement:

"It wouldn't do any good, but I didn't kill 'em. That's all I have to say."

The other accused man, John McKinney, 29, declined to say anything about the slayings.

Won't Give Details

When asked by Assistant Solicitor William M. West if he wanted to make a statement, McKinney replied:

"It wouldn't do any good to go into details, so I won't make one."

(13c)

This came after the first part of the probe, which dealt with the death of 65-year-old Jim Mitchell, employee of a local brick-making firm.

Sat-4-16-49

A second session into the death of Ivy Lee Parker, 19, lasted only a few minutes.

Admits Presence at Scene

Dubose and McKinney were arrested by Bibb deputies a few hours after the colored men were slain and thrown into swamp lakes near a tramline used by industrial plants below the city.

Deputy Sheriff John Gibson, who conducted the investigation with chief deputy J. P. Massey, and deputy E. B. (Tony) Llorens, testified that both men had admitted they were present when Mitchell and Parker were killed and that no one else was there.

(13c)

Witness Tells Threat

Another witness, Aaron Finney, colored of 1112 Eighth St., Lane, testified that Dubose and McKinney had threatened him and a companion, Wash Adams, on Tuesday afternoon before Mitchell and Parker were killed.

Finney said he and Adams and his small child were sitting near the Georgia power company's sub-station, not far from the point where the victims' bodies were recovered, when the white men approached.

Sat-4-16-49

Describes Death March

He said Dubose pulled a knife and told Adams:

"I ought to cut your head off."

McKinney had a shotgun, Finney related to the jury, and told Adams to get up and run.

McKinney told Adams he did not want to shoot him while he was running slow, but would rather shoot him while he was running fast, according to Finney's testimony.

Escaped Suspects

Adams got away, he told the jury, by climbing the steps at the sub-station and going over a fence.

Dubose then gave the child a quarter, Finney said, and they

130

left. He said they "looked like" they had been drinking.

Woman's Testimony

Jewell Lee Jones, colored, of 215 Gantt's Place, said she had heard an argument on the Tramline near the lakes where she and several friends were fishing, and later saw two white men.

According to the testimony she gave, the colored men's hands were in the air, the white men were holding guns in their backs, and they were headed into the swamp toward Dubose's shack.

Identify White Men

Matthew Jordan, colored, of 172 Elm St., said he was also in the fishing party and saw the clash. He said Parker had been fishing with them, but left about 5:45 p.m.

Sat-4-16-49

A little later, he testified, he heard the argument and went up near the tramline, where he saw Mitchell and Parker in the custody of McKinney and Dubose.

He was positive about his identification of the white men.

Deputy's Story

Deputy Gibson told the jury Dubose and McKinney had first accosted Mitchell and were marching him along the tramline when they met Parker.

They had an argument with Parker, he said, and then marched both into the swamps.

Dr. Max Maas, who performed the autopsy on the bodies, said Mitchell had a knife wound in his abdomen, another in the neck, and a bullet wound in his spine at the base of the skull.

Parker had a seven-inch bone-deep gash across his buttocks and a bullet wound in his head.

Dubose held to his denial following the brief probe into Parker's death.

"I still say I did not kill either of them," he said.

McKinney replied: "no statement."

Two Bodies Fished From Lakes in Ga.

130

Pittsburgh Courier

(Special to The Courier)

Sat 4-9-49

MACON, Ga.—Driven at gunpoint to their deaths in the eerie, snake-infested Okmulgee River swamps, three miles southeast of here, the slashed, beaten and bullet-riddled bodies of two Macon colored men were fished from two of the numerous lakes that dot the area late Wednesday by Bibb County deputy sheriffs.

Two white men, described by Sheriff E. Julian Peacock as "River Rats," have been charged with murder in the double slaying.

The suspects were identified as John McKinney and Louie Dubose, who lived with Dubose's brother in a filth-ridden, tar-paper shack in the vicinity of the brutal crime.

The victims were identified by officers as Jim Mitchell, 65-year-old employe of a local brickmaking firm, and Ivy Lee Parker, 19.

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Chief Deputy Sheriff J. P. Massey said McKinney has made a confession in the case, but he declined to reveal details of the statement.

Sheriff Peacock listed robbery as the motive for the brutal crime. He reported $200 in cash was found hidden in one of the suspect's wallets, along with the empty wallets of the two victims, under a can in a clump of bushes near the scene of the slaying. Mitchell was known to have had $200 on his person the day of the slaying, the sheriff added.

Discovery of the wallets and the money was made in nothing short of miraculous fashion, the sheriff related. He said Jailer Joe Stripling, one of the numerous officers who took part in the intensive search for the victims, spotted a snake in the clump of bushes while the hunt was in progress. When he struck at the snake with a stick, the sheriff continued, Stripling missed the reptile, but hit the can and overturned it, exposing the hiding place of the wallets.

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Sheriff Peacock gave this chronological story of the crime and investigation:

About 8 P. M. Tuesday, a report was received at the sheriff's office that two white men had been seen marching two Negroes along a clay mine railroad track at the edge of the swamps at gunpoint. The informant said the Negroes' hands were tied behind their backs.

The report was given by two other Negroes whose names the sheriff did not reveal. He said the witnesses gave the names of the two white men and provided partial description of them.

Deputies immediately went into action and sped to the shack in which the suspects lived. They were not there, so the officers went into the swamps to the point where the witnesses rported seeing the four men.

Sat 4-9-49

A short time later and unsuccessful in their search for the two Negroes, the officers returned to the tar-paper shack and arrested McKinney and Dubose.

Chief Deputy Massey and Deputies John Gibson and E. B. (Tonny) Llorens returned to the swamps and pressed their search for the two Negro men throughout the night and into Wednesday morning.

About noon, while dragging a small, dirty lake about 400 yards from the Dubose home, the deputives found Mitchell's body. He had been shot in the head, slashed across the temple, throat and abdomen.

Nearby, Deputy Walter Waldron found a knife which Parker's family identified as belonging to the younger victim. Blood-stained leaves covered the knife, which had been jabbed into the ground, Waldron said.

Soon after Mitchell's body was found, Jailer Stripling reported discovery of the wallets and the $200 in cash.

About mid-afternoon Sheriff Peacock and Deputy Massey left the swamps and returned to the jail where McKinney and Dubose were questioned for the first time. As a result of information obtained from one of the men, the sheriff disclosed, the search for Parker's body shifted to another lake near the one where Mitchell was found.

SHOT IN HEAD

The younger victim's body was found a short time later, lying in shallow water about fifty feet from the shore. He had been shot in the head and a bone-deep knife wound had been inflicted across his buttocks.

Sheriff Peacock said his investigation into the case indicates Mitchell was plowing in a field near the swamps when the white men approached him, intent on robbing him.

As they were driving the elderly Negro at gunpoint toward the swamp, the sheriff continued, the men met young Parker who had been fishing in the area with a friend who had left earlier. The sheriff said he believed the men, fearing Parker had seen too much, forced him to accompany them and killed him, too.

Sheriff Peacock announced later that the two men being held in the Mitchell and Parker deaths may be linked with other unsolved slayings in the river swamps in the last several years.

Only a few weeks ago the body of John Henry Ford, a Negro from Gray, about eighteen miles from here, was found in the river. A coroner's jury returned a verdict that he met death in an unknown manner.

Negro Turpentine Worker Shot to Death in Lyons

Constitution Ga. 8-9-49

LYONS—(AP)—A Negro turpentine worker was shot down and killed by a white man Sunday in this little Southeast Georgia town, scene of mob violence late last year.

Lyons Police Chief C. L. Keen said three white men were arrested yesterday, two as material witnesses and one for the actual slaying.

Atlanta Ga

Sheriff Robert E. Gray said Woodrow Williamson, 25, has admitted shooting the Negro, Lemon Ricks, about 50. Formal murder charges will be filed today, he added

The Sheriff identified the others held as Causs Williamson, 50, Woodrow's father-in-law, and Lester Mixon, 40. All are farmers of near Lyons.

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Gray said the four men had been arguing, but that none of the white men had said exactly what caused the shooting.

The Sheriff said Woodrow Williamson admitted shooting the Negro once with a pistol. The three white men then fled.

Several hours later, Gray continued, Mixon surrendered and on information from him the Sheriff went out to the Williamson home and arrested the other two men.

Chief Keen said he didn't know Ricks very well, but that his "reputation wasn't much." He said the Negro was charged with arson recently for setting fire to a white man's house. The house, he added, did not belong to either of the three men involved in Sunday's shooting.

It was in November last year that Negro Robert Mallard was shot down from ambush on a lonely road near Lyons. His widow, Amy Mallard, testified several white men stopped the Mallard car and shot her husband to death.

Two white men subsequently were charged with murder. One was tried and acquitted, and the charges against the others were dropped.

Shot Man In Back, Gets Irwinton OK

13c Ga

Negro by white

The Defender

IRWINTON, Ga. — Thomas E. Porter, 28-year-old G. I. student at Macon's Negro vocational school, is the second Negro killed here in the last two months

Porter was fatally shot in the back while running from G. H. Miller, 60-year-old white resident.

County Sheriff George Hatcher reported that a coroner's jury had returned the verdict of justifiable homicide which meant that Gordon is free to kill again.

It was in Wilkinson county that Caleb Hill was lynched after Sheriff Hatcher had jailed him for disorderly conduct, subsequently leaving the jail unguarded with the keys on his dining room table at home.

Chicago Def.

In his testimony the elderly Miller stated that he had tried to intervene in a quarrel between Porter and a 14-year-old boy. He said Porter was giving the boy a shaking up and he sought to protect him.

Sat. 7-23-49

Porter then tussled with Miller who broke away and went to his car for a gun. As Porter turned and ran Miller fired once. The bullet pierced Porter's heart. "I shot because I was not able to fight him," Miller explained to the jury.

Two men were arrested for the May 30 lynching of Hill, but were released after a grand jury voted no-bill following evidence gathered by the Georgia bureau of investigation.

Case 8

Georgian Had Spat With White Family; Went to Sheriff

Pittsburg Courier

Pittsburg Pennsylvania

QUITMAN, Ga.—Georgians last week awaited a solution to the mysterious axe-gun murder of Maceo Smith, prominent farmer and businessman, whose body was found back of his home by two hunters several days ago.

Smith was known to have trouble with white neighbors and complained to friends and reported the same to police.

Sat-1-29-49

The deceased lived alone in his family home about a mile outside Quitman. He had been an agent for the Pilgrim Life Insurance for many years and prominent in civic and religious affairs in the city and county.

HUNTERS FIND BODY

Walter Thomas and Moses Smith of Quitman found the body while on a hunting trip. It appeared that Smith had come in from his insurance work after attending a meeting of the Quitman branch of the NAACP and turned on all the lights in his house.

The lights were still burning when his body was discovered lying in a pool of blood with a hole in the back of his head, apparently cut with an ax, and a bullet hole in his forehead just above the eyes.

Smith apparently had gone out of his house to get firewood. A shower had wet his clothing and body.

Sat-1-29-49

The family of the deceased sought information which would lead to the arrest of a suspect or suspects. Smith had reported to the county sheriff his trouble with a family of white neighbors.

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3 Georgia Whites Held In 2 Negroes' Deaths

Washington Post

Washington D.C.

Macon, Ga., March 30 (U.P.).—Deputies took the bodies of two slain Negroes from the swamp lakes below Macon today and Sheriff E. Julian Peacock said three white men have been jailed in connection with their deaths.

Peacock said that one of the white men has confessed the slayings, saying the motive was robbery. The victims and the white suspects all lived in the Ocmulgee River swamps below the city.

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2 Held Responsible For Deaths Of Pair

Chicago Defender

MACON, Ga.—The confession Saturday of one of two white men, arrested in connection with the mysterious disappearance of two Negroes, disclosed a double lynching that had been unknown since Tuesday when it was committed.

Though described by Sheriff Julian Peacock and his chief deputy, J. Massey, as a murder with robbery as the possible motive, the death of the two Negroes was regarded by local residents as a lynching motivated by jealousy and not too unsimilar from that of Mallard.

Sat-4-9-49

Chief Deputy Massey stated Saturday that John McKinney had confessed that he and Louis Du Bose, both white, had participated in the killing of 65-year-old Jim Mitchell and Ivy Lee Parker, 18, near the Ocmulgee river in a swamp near this city.

First tip-off of the disappearance of the two men came from an unidentified Negro who reported to Peacock that he had seen at least two white men marching the Negroes through the swamp at gunpoint.

At his insistance, an investigation was launched, and following the description given by the unnamed witness, three white men, one unidentified, living in a shack near the river, were picked up.

When taken into custody the wallets belonging to the missing men were found near the living place of the white men. After dragging the Ocmulgee river, police reported finding the body of Mitchell whose throat had been slashed and his stomach ripped open.

When further dragging failed to produce the body of Parker, police began grilling the suspects, and according to their report, one informed police that the body of Parker could be found at a different point in the same body of water.

Following instructions, police were able to find Parker's body, and this seemed to confirm the suspicion that he was implicated in the deaths of the two men.

The wallets of the two Negroes containing $200 were found near the shack inhabited by the two white men and a number of persons reported that Mitchell was known to have about the same amount of money.

Mitchell, a brickyard employee, was known to be a quiet, hard-working man who by his thrift always carried a sizeable amount of money on his person.

Not much is known about Parker, an 18-year-old youth, except that he was a friend of the older man.

Sat-4-9-49

Though police officials were not charged with having been responsible for the "covering up" of the lynching, it was believed here that a conspiracy existed to keep hidden the fact that two Negroes had been lynched.

Negroes Murdered By White Men

By TOMMIE SMALLS

Macon, Ga.—Georgia Justice is once again about to be meted out to two white men who are in the custody of Bibb County Authorities for the brutal murder of Jim Mithell, a 65-year-old employee of a local brick-making firm, and Ivey Lee Parker, 19, both victims Negroes. The slaying is believed to have occurred sometime between 4 and 8 P.M. Tusday, March 29, in the Ocmulgee River swamps.

Thur-4-7-49

The two white men have been identified as Louie Dubose and John McKinney. No formal charges have been placed against the white men at Press time, but after the completion of the investigation it is blieved that th will be charged with murder. The investigation was started after report that two Negroes were seen being marched down a railroad track at the point of a gun with their hands tied behind them. Local deputies said the report was made by two Negroes, who described the white men and gave their names and the clothes they were wearing. This report was what led the deputies to an all-night search that began with the deputies visiting DuBose shack, which was located near the site where the bodies were later found. They then arrested both DuBose and McKinney. The two men led them to the site where they had disposed of the bodies.

Thur-4-7-49

Mitchell's body was knifed in the head, throat and stomach, and was found near the DuBose shack. The wallets of the victims were accidentally found by the deputies when they struck at a snake, and uncovered a can with the wallets. Mitchell's wallet contained about $200. The search was continued for the Parker body which wasn't found until one of the suspects furnished information that led to the immediate discovery of the body, which was quite a distance from the site where the other body was found. Parker was shot in the head and stabbed in the side.

Local authorities have concluded that robbery was the motive for the murder of Mitchell, and no motive was reached for the Parker lad. Inside Macon reports are that Parker was one of the witnesses of the Mitchell's death march and was the only one that didn't make good his get-a-way, while the others that fled the scene of the march reached Police and reported the incident, which led to the quick search. A knife was found and identified as the Parker boys possession, and was blood-stained when found. Local residents also believe that these two men will be convicted, but the fact still remain tha outcome will be the same as the Mallard, and Nixon murderers, with Georgia justice again winning out. The quick action by Bibb County authorities in apprehending the suspects shortly after the slaying occurred is laudable.

Thur-4-7-49

The Macon World, Negro Weekheaded by the fear, sdan p-œly, and strong militant paper headed by the fearless Larkin Marshall came out with the article asking why the local white daily papers printed nothing of the murders until Thursday, when the local radio was blasting all night Tuesday.

Negro Landowner Slain; 'Fishing Row' Probed

~~Constitution~~ 4-4-49

Constitution State News Service

BAINBRIDGE—The bullet-riddled body of Hollis Riles, 53, Negro landowner, was found late yesterday near a fish-pond he owned near here.

Sheriff White, of Decatur County, said he had no immediate clues, but reports indicated that Riles had engaged in an argument with a group of white men, fishing without permission in his pond, who shot him down.

There were a number of bullet holes in the body, and a Negro who had accompanied Riles to the scene to protest the trespassing on his land, said he could recognize none of the white men.

Atlanta Ga.

Some time ago, Riles' home, in the northern section of Decatur County, was riddled by buckshot fired at night from an a Riles farmed about tract.

✓ Lynching (1)

Daily World

Another Lesson For All

Atlanta, Ga. Thu. 7-14-49

A businessman and a Baldwin county Coroner were indicted Tuesday at Milledgeville for shooting two Negro women. In another case, a white man was being held for the severe beating that resulted in the death of a 65-year old Negro man.

It was at Milledgeville less than a year ago that three Negro college presidents and their administrative officers were forced to leave a Board of Regents meeting, called by the Chancellor, on account of pressure from the Ku Klux Klan.

We cite these instances at some length in order to give a picture of the constant fear and danger under which Negroes live out their existence in so many areas of Georgia and the rural South, depending upon the moral conscience of those who are in control of the law enforcement machinery. There is also another reason for these details, which could be multiplied at great length. The Next Voter, represented by four high school lads of Massachusetts, is presently touring the South to observe conditions first hand. Already, on their tour they find things surprisingly different from what they had been reading and hearing.

They find, according to published accounts, that relations between the races are good and that the South is really solving its own problems. Of course, if these lads were taken seriously by America or even the South itself it would be a dangerous thing. But fortunately, we don't believe any serious student of life for Negroes here would waste much time on gloating over the impressions gained by lads who conduct their studies from some hotel window.

What took place in Milledgeville is very real in the lives of Negroes in Georgia and over the South. Whippings, many of which never come to light; killings, some w ehave known, have never been investigated, together with a thousand lesser type of injustice to Negroes, serve as a daily reminder to them that life and limb is safe only insomuch as those in charge of law enforcement may feel personally responsible for maintaining justice and decency for all. That is why we insist that the South's race problem cannot be seen from some hotel window. To see it at its worst one must have a first hand knowledge of the rurals, and the small towns. Almost all of the reasons given for the lynching of Robert Mallard revolved about the silly charge that he "was biggety," "he owned a new car" and other charges of a similar nature. In other words, a Negro can get too prosperous in Georgia and the South.

Daughter Accepts Keys

Rosa Lee Ingram's Tots in New Home

Courier Sat. 7-23-49

AMERICUS, Ga.—The family of Mrs. Rosa Lee Ingram was presented keys to the newly constructed and well furnished home, July 11 in befitting ceremonies.

Keys to the structure were accepted by Mrs. Geneva Rushin. The presentation was made under a giant tree in front of the home.

Atty. A. T. Walden, of Atlanta, NAACP cousel, said the home "symbolizes that the Negro people as well as the whites are determined more and more to see that all persons received justice under law." Walden called the contributions for the home "outpourings of the hearts of the people of America."

The attorney indicated efforts to free Mrs. Ingram from the life sentence for slaying her attacker were continuing.

The new Ingram home is modernly constructed and furnished throughout.

Pittsburgh, Pa.

W. R. Burleigh, member of the Americus NAACP who cooperated with the national body in construction of the house, was among those presented and spoke. Other Americus NAACP committee members present were:

Revs. S. M. Holton, Rev. J. Roy Moore, Rev. L. S. Stell and Dr. R. S. Douthard, as well as Mesdames B. M. B. Simmons, Mozelle Dawson, R. H. Williams, Eva Hoskins, and Mary Blount of the women's auxiliary.

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World

With her usual characteristic courage, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, in the course of an interview in Atlanta Thursday, reaffirmed her oft expressed conviction that the South needs the Civil Rights program and that it is in no sense the cause for the resurgence of violence in the region.

No mention was made of the gruesome slaying, not to call it a lynching, of 58-year-old Hollis Riles, prosperous Grady county farmer, a week ago by white men. The Sheriff has no clues worth following, he said. "The Georgia Bureau of Investigation officials," the Sheriff advised, "are working with me on this case. Although it may take some time, I feel that we are making definite progress and will be able to find the men."

Fri. 9-9-49

That precious statement was made Monday over long distance call to the Sheriff's office. But nothing yet has happened. And speaking of the failures of American democracy, Mrs. Roosevelt called attention to this as well as the Robeson's demonstration when she warned: "Such incidents are frequently brought to my attention in the United States by the Russian delegates, who ask if they are examples of the democracy of which we are so proud." But she says: "I find that I must reply that these things are failures of democracy."

The point we make is that Mrs. Roosevelt's contention that the South needs the civil rights program is true and correct. We need an anti-lynch law. We need the whole program of civil rights and without it the mind of man can envision no early solution of mob violence and lawlessness in the South. For the simple truth is, the people in the small rural areas will not testify against each other, who in hundreds of instances, are related in one or another way.

Maybe something will be done about Riles' death. His only crime was that he owned a 200 acre plot, which whites wanted to buy. Repeatedly, he refused to sell in the South that very thing can and often turns out to be, death for the Negro who keeps on resisting the wishes of whites. In most of the South, the law is on the side of the white man. We need the civil rights program and then mob violence will not be a problem because we shall have laws to cover such lawlessness.

Turpentine Worker, 50 Years Old Shot At Scene Of Mallard Lynching

Sat. 8-28-49 Chi. Def.

LYONS, Ga. — In this little southern town made notorious less than a year ago by the brutal ambush slaying of Robert Mallard, another Negro was killed under mysterious circumstances last week.

Lemon Ricks, about 50 years old, was killed by pistol shot after an argument with three white men. According to Sheriff Robert E. Gray, the three men are being held, one as the slayer and the other two as material witnesses. Ricks was a turpentine worker.

Defender

In November last year Robert Mallard and his wife were driving along a road near Lyons. Their car was stopped by several white men and a few minutes later, Mallard was dead from gunshot.

Mrs. Mallard identified several of the men later, but no one was sentenced for the brutal slaying.

In the recent killing Woodrow Williamson, 25, admitted he fired the shot after which all three men fled the scene. Lester Mixon, at the scene of the crime, surrendered after hearing of the arrest of the other two, one of whom was Causs Williamson, father-in-law of Woodrow.

8-28-49

According to Chief Keen, the victim was charged with arson recently for setting fire to a white man's house. The house, however, did not belong to either of the three involved in the shooting.

3 Baldwin Men Held in Probes Of Race Rows

The Constitution

A businessman and the Baldwin County Coroner were indicted in Milledgeville yesterday in the shootings of two Negro women.

In still another case at Milledgeville, a white man was being held for the severe beating that resulted in the death of a 65-year-old Negro man.

Atlanta, Ga.

Meanwhile, in nearby Gordon, a coroner's jury cleared a white man.

Wed. 7-13-49

Marion Stembridge, a grocer, was indicted in Milledgeville for death of Emma Johnkin, Negro. The coroner, Sam Terry, was indicted for assault with intent to murder in the shooting of Emma Jane Harrison, Negro. Witnesses told the jury Stembridge and Terry went to the home of the two women March 7 to collect a debt. An argument broke out and, according to witnesses, Stembridge allegedly shot one woman and Terry the other.

Wed. 7-13-49

In the death of the 65-year-old Negro man, Sheriff L. D. Stancill said that the Negro, Sam Devereux, was found severely beaten and died without gaining consciousness. The Sheriff said a man listed as "Bubber" Crooms was jailed on a charge of suspicion.

In the Gordon case, the coroner's jury returned a verdict of justifiable homicide in the death of Thomas E. Porter, 28. He was allegedly shot in front of a Negro roadhouse owned by G. H. Miller. The fight, according to testimony, grew out of trouble Porter had been having with a younger boy. Miller told Porter he should not bother the boy, who told the coroner's jury that he shot Porter "because I was not able to fight."

Jury Clears White Man Who Shot Negro In Back

Dispatch

Oklahoma City, Okla.

Sat. 7-23-49

IRWINTON Ga. — (ANP) —A coroner's jury returned a verdict here last week of justifiable homicide in the case of a white man who fatally shot a Negro in the back on the night of July 9th. Victim of the shooting was Thomas E. Porter, 28-year-old student at Macon's Vocational school.

The shooting took place outside a roadhouse in Gordon, Ga., 12 miles northwest of here. The fatal shot was fired by G. H. Miller, 60, white resident of Gordon.

According to the testimony given by Miller and five Negroes at the inquest before an all-white jury, Miller sought to intervene in a quarrel between the victim and a 14-year-old boy. Porter was said to have had trouble with the boy and was roughing him up when Miller sought to intervene.

Porter tussled with Miller, but the elderly man broke away and went to his car for a gun. Porter turned and ran, but was dropped by a bullet fired by Miller. The shot went through the victim's back, piercing his heart.

"I shot him because I was unable to fight him," Miller told the jury. The verdict means the case is closed as far as Wilkinson county authorities are concerned.

The county is also the scene of a so far unpunished lynching which took place last May 30 after a Negro had been jailed for disorderly conduct. The sheriff left the jail unguarded with keys on the dining room table of his unlocked home. The victim, Caleb (Picky Pie) Hill, 28-year-old chalk miner, was found shot to death on a rural highway after being kidnapped from the jail.

White Farmer Held for Murder

Courier

Sat. 10-15-49

WHITEVILLE, N. C.—(ANP)—George Clark, 25, was killed last week in an unexplained shooting at the home of Fort Ellis, white farmer in Welches Creek Township.

Pittsburgh, Pa.

The victim was shot through the heart and in the leg with a .38 caliber pistol. Clark died within a few minutes after being loaded onto a wagon to be carried away.

Ellis was arrested and put into jail by county officials. According to them, though, Ellis has admitted firing the fatal bullets, he has not given a reasonable explanation for the shooting.

ELDERLY NEGRO DIES AFTER CRASH IN FOG

Times Picayune

(Special to The Times-Picayune)

Abbeville, La., April 25—Harrison Mitchell, Negro, was killed instantly at 2 a. m. Sunday when he was struck by an automobile 3½ miles west of here on the Abbeville-Kaplan highway, Aurelie Broussard, Vermilion parish sheriff, said.

Times 4-26-49

13c New Orleans La.

Driver of the automobile, a 1948 Kaiser, was Joseph Clovic Young of Church Point, the sheriff stated.

Times Picayune

According to the sheriff, Young was driving in the direction of Kaplan in a heavy fog when he struck the Negro, who was between 70 and 72 years old. Broussard quoted the driver as saying that he didn't see the victim before the accident because of the fog. Immediately after the accident, Young came to Abbeville and summoned the sheriff who investigated the accident.

4-26-49

Was It Murder?

Prisoner's Death Hit By Bishop

The Courier

By JOHN E. ROUSSEAU

(Courier New Orleans Bureau)

NEW ORLEANS — The deep, dark mystery surrounding the death of Frank Bates, 42-year-old longshoreman, indicted for the murder of a priest, will perhaps never be solved, nor will any one be held responsible.

Bates' badly battered, straight-jacketed body was found in a parish prison cell Monday morning, July 18.

NEW ORLEANS—In a scolding and vaporing attack last week, Archbishop Joseph F. Rummel, who speaks for the Catholic Church here, severely blasted parish prison officials for their failure to provide medical attention for "psycho-killer" Frank Bates.

Pittsburgh Pa.

The Orleans Parish grand jury investigated the case Thursday, July 21, but failed to take action. Bates was charged with the robbery-killing July 8 of the Rev. John F. Neifert, SSJ, 68-year-old pastor of Holy Redeemer Catholic Church, 2122 Royal Street.

Investigation by the grand jury into Bates' death was ordered by the District Attorney following protests from Archbishop Joseph F. Rummel, the New Orleans NAACP, Local 1419 of the International Longshoremen's Association, the Knights of Peter Claver and the Louisiana Civil Rights Congress.

NEW YORK—An investigation of the death of Frank Bates was urged this week of the Justice Department by the New Orleans branch and the NAACP.

"INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE"

Sat. 7-30-49

Judge Neils F. Hertz, in Criminal District Court, explained that the grand jury pretermitted or disregarded the case because no evidence was found on which anyone could be indicted. He said the case is left open for later action in the event of new information.

Appearing before the grand jury were Sheriff John Grosch, who had told the press that Bates, listed by police as a "psychopathic case," became violent in prison and had to be restrained with a straight-jacket; Dr. Philip Montelpre, assistant Orleans Parish coroner, who said Bates died of heart failure, malnutrition and dehydration, and recommended an investigation after finding Bates had suffered two broken ribs and other injuries; James B. LaFourche of the Associated Negro Press, and Burnell Vaughn and Alfred (Black Satin) Bonner, who were in the same cell with Bates when he died.

Sat. 7-30-49

Chief Deputy Sheriff William Grosch told The Courier he believed Bates was hurt in falling during his violent spells. Warden James Meredith said Bates had refused to eat solid food and would only drink coffee after being placed in the parish prison.

Fifth Precinct police, however, told The Courier that Bates had given them absolutely no trouble when arrested and held in that station.

HAD "CONFESSED" KILLING

In a signed statement, Bates had "admitted" going into the rectory of Holy Redeemer Church after attending mass, July 8, and striking the Rev. Father Neifert on the head with a heavy iron cargo hook.

13c 1949

Negroes by Whites(Maryland)

Boy, 19, Killed in Public Park

Afro American

[illegible] 10-8-49

Tragedy Climaxes Tension in Area

Baltimore, Md.

BALTIMORE

Two white boys are being held for questioning by Southwestern District police here in connection with incidents which led to the fatal stabbing of 19-year-old Linwood Matthews in Carroll Park on Sunday.

13c Md

Colored residents in the vicinity feel that the incidents climaxed long standing racial tensions in the area, which had developed among the whites the feeling that the South Baltimore public park was "for whites only."

Boys Defy Hoodlums

The trouble started when seven colored boys who were chased out of the park by 50 white boys, returned and were surrounded. Matthews was stabbed in the ensuing melee.

Carroll Park, in the heart of the industrial section, contains the municipal golf course which colored players use on a restricted schedule, because of a recent ruling by the Bureau of Parks which banned integrated golf games.

Matthews was one of nine children of Mr. and Mrs. Linwood Matthews Sr., of 1451 Ward St. Like their neighbors, the Matthews family reported that whites used insulting language, and often stoned and chased the colored children out of the park.

Negro Slain In Baltimore Race Battle

13c -Md

Negroes by Whites

BALTIMORE—(AP) — A 19-year-old Negro was stabbed to death yesterday in a battle royal between white and Negro youths in a city park.

Atlanta, Ga.

Police said Linwood Matthews was stabbed just below the heart. He died before he could be taken to South Baltimore General Hospital.

Constitution

George Bitzer, operator of a tavern across the street from the park, said there were about 50 boys on each side, all armed with clubs.

Oct. 3, 1949

13c 1949

Negroes by Whites (Michigan)

20-MONTH FIGHT

Widow Wins Warrant in Mate's Death

Detroit Free Press

PORT HURON—(AP)—A Negro woman's 20-month fight against officialdom resulted in a second-degree murder warrant charging a white man with killing her husband.

Mrs. Melvina Woodyard had to put up $1,000 bond to get the warrant against John Harrington, 24, of Port Huron.

* * *

HARRINGTON WAS accused of fatally shooting Oppie Woodyard on April 5, 1947.

Detroit, Michigan

He told Prosecutor Reg S. Atkins that Woodyard was shot accidentally in a dispute. Harrington had found his wife arguing with Woodyard.

When Atkins refused to issue a warrant, Mrs. Woodyard took the matter to court. But the judge refused to force Atkins to act. Sat. 1-8-49

So Mrs. Woodyard began saving enough to supply bond for Harrington, a requirement for getting the bench warrant. Municipal Judge George T. McInnis issued the warrant Friday.

Harrington stood mute on arraignment and a plea of innocent was entered. He will appear for examination Feb. 1.

Case 05

Court to Probe Tenant's Slaying

The Courier

Pittsburgh, Pa. Sat. 1-15-49

BRANDON, Miss. — The Rankin County grand jury which met here Monday is scheduled to "consider" evidence in the case of a white feudal lord who shot to death a Negro tenant land-tiller on his place last week.

The white man, W. G. Sewell, about 55, of Pelahatchie, Miss., was released on a mere $1,000 bond by Justice of the ePace J. L. Barrow, when he waived a preliminary hearing.

13c

Sowell murdered Eles James, 40, who had been a tenant on the white man's farm for about fifteen years, for "talking back" to him. The fatal shooting occurred about 2 A. M., Sunday, Jan. 2, in the "Negro quarters." James is survived by his wife. 1-15-49

Barrow said that witnesses told him James came home late Saturday night "and was disturbing some other Negro families. Mr. Sewell was notified and he went to see about it. He took along his gun, of course." 1-15-49

Sowell's farm is about two miles south of Pelahatchie.

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3 Miss. Whites Held In Death Of Negro Farmer

Daily World Atlanta, Ga.

13c

Sat. 7-16-49

HOUSTON, Miss. — Three white men were arraigned on murder charges last Friday for the fatal beating of a Negro tenant farmer whom they said "hogged the road" with his wagon.

Deputy Sheriff T. A. Bryant identified the men as: James Moore of Thorne, Miss.; Eunice Gore, a soldier stationed at Keesler Field, Miss.; and James (Red) Keelum, also of Thorne. All were said to be in their early 20's.

Sat. 7-16-49

The victim was Malcolm Wright, 45. Bryant said Wright was beaten to death with an auto jack handle before his wife and four children last Saturday.

Feeling the area was "very hot" against the white men because Wright was a hard-working, respectable man, Bryant said, and many "thousands of dollars" toward the prosecution.

✓

The deputy quoted Wright's wife as saying they were on their way to town for their Saturday shopping. She said the three men drove past Wright's wagon and team in a 1941 Ford truck two or three times.

Officers said the men cursed Wright for not moving over fast enough and the third time they got out and attacked Wright with a jack handle.

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The World

13c

Memphis Tenn.

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13c 1949

Negroes by Whites (Mississippi)

All-White Jury Clears A 'Phantom' Murderer

The Courier Pittsburgh, Pa.

Sat. 7-16-49

By JAMES B. LaFOURCHE

GREENSVILLE, Miss.—(ANP)—A phantom Negro killer was exonerated here last week by an all-white jury when it returned a verdict of "guilty as charged" against Mrs. John Dickens, prominent plantation owner and sportswoman indicted last Nov. 17 for the slaying of her 69-year-old mother with a pair of rose shears. Mrs. Dickens had accused a Negro of committing the crime.

The jury was out three hours and thirty-six minutes. The accused was found guilty, but the jury was unable to agree as to the type of punishment to mete out to the alleged slayer. At this junction Judge Arthur Jordan interposed and by virtue of the authority vested in him, sentenced the Delta socialite to life imprisonment.

The ink had hardly dried confirming the sentence when Atty. Ben Wilkes, noted criminal lawyer, served notice that he would appeal for a new trial,

Defense Attorney Wilkes endeavored to make the jury believe that a Negro had actually inflicted the more than 100 pinpoint wounds which literally covered the body of the 99-pound victim.

Staring at the jurors he said "Whoever committed this bloody crime had a diceased mind—it was a maniac." Mrs. Dickens had accused an unidentified Negro, naturally her defense counsel was likewise obliged to look through dark colored glasses.

However, the state had well prepared its case. Red-haired Stanny Sanders, district attorney, leaned forward toward the jurors and in a simple and sensible way said: "There are two reasonable theories here of who committed the crime—a Negro or Mrs. Dickens. If it was not a Negro, then the guilt falls squarely on the shoulders of Mrs. Dickens." And then following up his argument he added: "There was not a trace of evidence that a Negro was in that house."

Pacing the floor, the prosecutor asked jurors, if they believed that a Negro had entered the dead woman's home on a bright sunny day and in an exclusive neighborhood, armed with only a garden shears to commit a felony. He told the jury that such a one would have had a knife.

"Do you think that a Negro, after the killing, would have left Mrs. Dickens, a living witness, sprawled on the floor within four jumps of a telephone?" the prosecutor asked.

7-16-49

"Does that make sense?" he thundered. "Somebody washed those shears. A wet and bloody handkerchief was found in the bathtub by the body."

Then unfurling a brown handkerchief and waving it before the jury, Mr. Sanders exclaimed: "That handkerchief was used to wipe those shears. Does a Negro man carry this kind of handkerchief with him?"

With this argument the state clinched its case. The phantom Negro killer, not seen by any one, anytime or anywhere, passed out of the picture and Negro people in this town stood acquitted of a great moral wrong which both the accused and her defense attorney had sought to brand on them.

13c 1949 Negroes by Whites (North Carolina)

White Mechanic Held

Gun Jabs Fatal

Courier Pitt. 8-6-49

Sidney Charles Crump, 23, Is Held Without Bond in the Slaying of James Melton, 25

13c

CHARLOTTE, N. C.—A 23-year-old white mechanic was held without bond on a charge of murder, Wednesday, in the rifle-jabbing slaying of a young Negro three days before.

Probable cause was found against Sidney Charles Crump, white, by Judge E. McA. Currie in a preliminary police court hearing held in connection with the death of James Melton, 25, last Sunday.

Crump will stand trial during the August term of the Mecklenburg Superior Court.

Pittsburgh Pa.

The police court chamber was packed for the hearing.

Melton apparently died from a rifle muzzle entering his head.

Crump told police investigators he returned home about 2:25 P. M., Sunday and had fallen asleep when he was awakened by someone cutting his belt to get to his wallet. He said he "jabbed" at Melton with a .22 caliber automatic rifle when the colored man advanced on him.

The white slayer declared no shot was fired from the death weapon.

An autopsy report made to the court Wednesday by Dr. W. M. Summerfield, county coroner, disclosed that Melton died from a "mass hemorrhage" caused by a heavy instrument. The coroner described the fatal wound as a laceration through the nose, above the eye and into the right side of the brain.

Detective Cal Ramsey, who was called to Crump's home at 621 South Church Street, Sunday to investigate Melton's death, said he found the man's body lying face down in a pool of blood on the floor of the white man's bedroom. The detective said there were no eyewitnesses to the slaying.

Another colored man, unidentified, who Crump said was with Melton when he entered his (Crump's) bedroom, has not been found. The defendant said the man fled from the house.

Two white neighbors of Crump said they saw him in the company of Negro men.

The dead youth was identified as the son of Ben Melton, 520 West Stonewall Street.

13c 1949

Negroes by whites (North Carolina)

Jail Two White Men In Hit-Run Death of Negro

CHARLOTTE, (N. C.) — (ANP) —Robert Banks, 21, and Joseph Carraway, 28, both white, were jailed here last week in the hit-and-run death of a Negro. Victim of the accident was Arthur White, 38, who was found dead in a city street.

Witnesses had jotted down the license number of the auto which ran over White and police picked up later the two men riding in the auto.

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City
Okla.

White Man Convicted Of Slaying Negro Boy

Spartansburg, S. C., Oct. 19 (AP)—A General Sessions Court jury of 12 white men last night convicted a white man of slaying a Negro boy during an argument over payment for a dozen eggs.

10-20-49

The murder conviction carried a recommendation of mercy, making a sentence of life imprisonment mandatory.

David Lee Crane, 29, the defendant, was charged with the shotgun slaying of Starling Turner, 10.

S.C. White Man Held in Murder of Boy, 10, Who Cursed Him

Afro

SPARTANBURG, S.C. (ANP)—A 29-year-old white man, David L. Crane, was ordered held Friday on a charge of murder in the shotgun slaying of Starling Turner in the Crane home near here recently. Warrant for Crane's arrest was issued by Coroner George Adams, after a jury recommended he be held.

13c

According to the testimony of Andy Crane, 74-year-old father of the suspect, Turner was shot when he cursed the younger Crane. The boy had come to the house to deliver eggs. Police said he had been shot in the head two or three times with a single barrel shot gun.

Two Admit Holdup-Killing

11-26-49

Murder of Elderly Man Arouses Whites

By W. M. PORTER

COLUMBIA, S.C. — (NNPA)—James Lawing, 26, white, has admitted he was the triggerman in the robbery-slaying of an aged colored man on the night of Nov. 12, Sheriff Eddie Weathers of Oconee County said last Tuesday night.

Lawing and Leroy Parker, 20, also white, will be charged with murder in the shotgun death of Michael Rice, 69, respected owner of a small farm near Walhalla, 49 miles west of Greenville, Weathers added.

13c S.C.

Parker is a Walhalla odd-job man. Lawing is from Berkeley County.

Questioned at the State Constabulary barracks here, "both men confessed their part in it and said they went to get the farmer's money," Weathers reported.

The sheriff said the men told him this story:

After borrowing a shotgun from Lawing's brother, they forced their way into the old man's bedroom and asked him the time. When he turned on a flashlight to look at the clock, they told him to "reach."

Shot While in Bed

Rice tried to grab the shotgun and was shot in the leg. He started to get out of bed and Lawing shot him. Both white men then kicked Rice in the head before leaving.

Officers said Parker admitted taking the old man's money belt containing $315.

Statewide action by white posses, aroused over the brutal holdup-murder Saturday, resulted in the arrest of the two white suspects here on Tuesday, more than 100 miles away from the scene of the crime.

Charleston County Police Sgt. Al Roth and four other officers arrested the two at a roadside cafe 10 miles north of Charleston at 1:15 a.m.; Tuesday. They offered no resistance.

The search for the suspects was set off by an angry public in the town of Walhalla, situated in the West Piedmont section of the State, after news had gotten around that Rice had been blasted to death by a shotgun as he lay sleeping, and robbed of between $400 and $500.

11-26-49

Boy Recounts Crime

The story of the slaying was told by a 14-year-old boy, living with Rice, named Henry Davis, who witnessed the murder and robbery. Sheriff Weathers reports the boy as saying:

"The armed pair entered the home, last Saturday night, poured a load of shotgun slugs into the body of 'Mr. Mitchael,' then cut a money belt from his body and made off with the contents." Rice died about 15 minutes after he was shot, it was established.

13c

The boy, who spent a night filled with terror lying beside the dead man, said that the white men warned him not to get up or they would shoot him. He got up enough courage to summon officers at about 7 a.m., Sunday, several hours after the shooting.

The Davis boy stated:

"Late Saturday night, two white men went to Rice's house, pushed the door open and stepped inside. One of them asked what time it was. Rice replied that it was 10:45. One of the men then said, 'OK, we've just carousing around a little. We'll see you."

Didn't Want Bloody Hands

"They left the house, but returned a few minutes later and shot Rice. One man ordered the other to search Rice for his money, explaining that, I don't want to get blood on my hands.' "

Rice was described by the sheriff as "a respected farmer."

Sheriff Weathers said that on Monday night he definitely had established that the men drove a stolen truck to he scene and later abandoned it in Walhalla.

The sheriff stated that in making their getaway, the men backed the truck into a tree in front of Rice's home in the High Falls Community. A piece of the rear fender was torn off.

Officers compared this with the tear in the rear fender of the truck found in Walhalla. The edges dovetailed, the sheriff said. He added that the truck was stolen in Westminster, Saturday night.

Trail Lost in Greenville

The two suspects were traced to Greenville, by Sheriff Weathers, but the trail ended there. However, since Greenville is only about 50 miles from Charleston, police there were warned to be "on the alert" for the killers, whose description, as gained from Henry Davis, was sent out over the police radio.

The prisoners were placed in Charleston City Jail, after their [illegible] the arrival of Sheriff Weathers. Sergeant Roth [illegible] charged with murder, car theft and armed robbery.

White Youths Sought In Slaying Of Negro

WALHALLA, S. C., Nov. 15—(AP)—Two young white men were pursued by officers today for questioning in the robbery and slaying of an elderly Negro farmer.

13c

The slaying has aroused white residents of this area.

S.C.

The farmer, Michael Rice, died from loss of blood shortly after two men entered his home and blasted him with a shotgun. They cut a money belt from his body and made off with between $400 and $500.

The story of the shooting was told to Weathers by Henry Davis, 14-year-old Negro companion and helper of Rice. The boy said he spent a terror-filled night lying beside the body after the gunmen warned him not to get up or they would shoot him.

11-15-49

Two Young Men Held In Death of Aged Negro

Walhalla, S. C., Nov. 15 (AP)—Two white men were arrested near Charleston today on charges of slaying an elderly Negro farmer near here Saturday night.

Police in the seaside city, 200 miles from here, identified the prisoners as Leroy Parker, 22, Walhalla, and James L. Lawing, 26, Berkeley County.

13c

11-16-49

The men offered no resistance as Sgt. Al Roth and four other officers arrested them in a roadside cafe. Roth said the men were charged with murder, car theft, and armed robbery.

Sheriff Eddie Weathers sent deputies to return the prisoners here.

Whitewash Slaying of Negro Farmer

Daily Worker

New York, N.Y.

(13c)

Sun. 5-8-49

RICHMOND, Va.—Leading citizens of Charles City County have started a growing movement to demand that justice be done in the brutal slaying of Robert A. Bradby, a 24 year old Negro farmer of Roxbury, Virginia, shot and killed on March 4 by F. M. Wood, an Alcoholic Beverage Commission enforcement supervisor.

Angered by the obvious whitewash of Wood when murder charges against him were dismissed in the Charles City Trial Justice Court, Bradby's relatives and neighbors are taking steps to bring murder charges against Wood in the next session of the local Grand Jury. 5-8-49

This week, as the facts in the case became more generally known, Virginians throughout the State added their voices in demanding that justice be done. The Communist Party of Virginia mailed hundreds of circulars setting forth the facts in the case and calling for demands to Governor Tuck and Attorney General Almond that a full investigation be conducted and that Wood be prosecuted. 5-8-49

BRADBY, a well-liked, hard-working farmer, leaves a widow and three small children with no source of support.

Murder charges against Wood were dismissed in preliminary hearings before the local Trial Justice in an obvious attempt to whitewash Wood. Wood claimed that his gun was acidentally discharged while he was chasing Bradby from a still which the officers had just raided, however Wood's own testimony was contradictory and conflicted with that given by his fellow officers. 5-8-49

Two witnesses gave testimony that Bradby had been shot at least twice and in a manner that could not possibly have been accidental, while testimony was also presented showing that an effort was made to destroy Bradby's body by setting fire to the funeral home where it lay waiting burial.

There is evidence to indicate that Bradby was the victim of a vicious "legal" murder and that the authorities are now trying to hide the truth in the case. But those interested in securing justice by the prosecution of Wood and the indemnification of his wife and family have every hope that a flood of protest to Governor Tuck and Attorney General Almond will force action in the case.

Fort Belvoir Authorities Probe Killing of Private

Journal & Guide

Sat. 9-10-49

Norfolk, Va.

FORT BELVOIR, Va.—(NNPA)—Military authorities at Fort Belvoir last Thursday were investigating the fatal shooting of a 25-year old soldier last Wednesday night by two military policemen.

The dead soldier, Pvt. Ernest Roberts, 25, a member of a construction battalion, was shot, post authorities said, when he fled the scene of a disturbance at a canteen and failed to halt when called on to do so.

The shooting occurred after the two MP's, Pvt. Willliam A. Hedrick, 20, and Pvt. Leonard J. Connor, 22, were ordered to investigate a trouble call from Young's Village, a Jim Crow residential section of the reservation, at 10:40 p. m.

The two MP's are confined at the post stockade pending a complete investigation, the authorities said.

13c

Post authorities gave the following account:

The two MPs were dispatched from the headquarters to a canteen at Young's Village to quell a disturbance.

When they arrived, they were informed that fighting had broken out inside and that a man had been seriously beaten and cut with a broken bottle.

As Pvts. Hedrick and Connor started to enter the canteen, Pvt. Roberts ran out through another door and failed to respond when the MP's called on him to halt. They chased him and Pvt. Connor opened fire when it appeared they would be unable to catch the fleeing man.

Pvt. Roberts fell after the third shot and was pronounced dead at the station hospital about 11 o'clock. The bullet struck him in the back and passed through his body near his heart. MP's are armed with .45 caliber automatic pistols.

The beaten man, Cpl. William Green, Co. E., First School Battalion, was hospitalized with head cuts, authorities said. Last Thursday morning, another man, Pfc. W. C. Hutchinson, Co. B., 94th Engineer Construction Battalion, was arrested and reportedly confessed to the assault on Greene.

Pvt. Roberts, a draftee, had been in the army nine months. His mother is Mrs. Laura May Harry, Oklahoma City, Okla.

13c 1949

New Jersey

'Trenton Six' Set to Leave Death House

13c N.J.

TRENTON, N.J.—Transfer of the "Trenton Six" from the death house in State Prison, where they have been since last August, to the Mercer County jail was expected to take place early this week.

Afro-American

The death sentence for the six who were convicted last year of slaying 73-year-old William Horner in his second-hand store in Jan., 1947, was reversed on June 30 by the New Jersey Supreme Court, and the case sent back to Mercer County Court for a new trial.

Jul. 7-16-49

Date for the new trial is awaiting a decision from Mercer County Judge Hutchinson who heard the original case last summer. Since trial courts are not in session in July and August, it is not expected that the date will be until after Labor Day.

Question of Indictment

There is speculation as to whether the men can be tried a second time on the original indictment.

Baltimore, Md.

This speculation is expected to be cleared up as soon as Judge Hutchinson issues orders for transfer of the men, who expressed "delight" at the Supreme Court's decision.

Prison Warden Page said last week that he was required to keep the men in the death house until he receives an order for transfer.

Meanwhile, James A. Waldron and former Mercer County Judge James A. Turp, court-appointed counsel for Horace Wilson and John McKenzie two of the defendants, said that the order for transfer becomes automatic 10 days after announcement of the high court's decision under the new court rules. That would be Monday, July 10.

Speculate About Judge

The other defendants are Collis English, Ralph Cooper, James Thorpe and McKinley Forrest.

Mercer County Prosecutor Mario H. Volpe said he expected that Judge Hutchinson would fix a trial date as soon as he consults counsels for both sides.

Some speculation arose, too, over whether or not Judge Hutchinson, in view of the high court's decision, would retry the case. Some saw a possibility that he may withdraw and turn the case over to County Judge Richard J. Hughes.

13c 1949 New York

Ask Probe of Albany Negro's Death

ALBANY, Jan. 24.—A demand for an investigation into the suspicious circumstances surrounding the death of John Ferrell, a young Negro of 25 Mulberry St., was launched at a meeting of over 250 people Sunday afternoon held at 80 Westerly St. A delegation was scheduled to see Mayor Erastus Corning yesterday. The audience of Negroes and whites heard reports on the circumstances surrounding Ferrell's death Jan. 10, in the 1st Precinct police stationhouse from Morris Zuchman, attorney for the widow, Mrs. Marguerite Ferrell, and from Mrs. Ferrell herself. Tue. 1-25-49

The police claimed that Ferrell hanged himself in the police station 10 minutes after he was arrested.

Scott K. Gray, chairman of the Albany chapter of the Civil Rights Congress, sponsors of the meeting, said a fight for civil rights would be launched in the Ferrell case and against all police brutality in Albany.

Zuchman said Mrs. Ferrell would sue the city of Albany for damages.

MOTHER OF 2

Mrs. Ferrell, mother of two small children, one in her arms, told the audience that her husband would never have taken his own life.

Harry Vodery, president of the Albany branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, pledged that his organization would work until the Ferrell case was cleared. He said that while the NAACP would work with all other groups for Negro rights—"Let the chips fall where they may."

Simon Failkoff, chairman of the Albany Communist Party, who first brought the case to the attention of the Civil Rights Congress, stated that the fight of minorities for civil rights was the same as the fight against the indictments of the 12 Communist Party leaders in New York. 1-25-49

Harry Philo, director of the Albany American Labor Party club, pledged the cooperation of his club in any plans voted by the meeting.

UNIONISTS SPEAK

Other speakers were Leon Lewis, editor of the Labor Courier, independent American Federation of Labor newspaper; and from the floor, Mrs. George Freeland; John Wright, Local 80, CIO, United Public Workers; Costas Cakoulis, Local 472, AFL Hotel and Restaurant Workers of Schenectady.

Harold Klein, sub-district chairman of the northeast sub-district of New York State Communist Party, presented a $20 check from his organization.

Elias M. Schwarzhart, attorney for the NAACP and Chester A. Banks, former candidate for state senator on the American Labor Party ticket, representing the Young Progressives of Albany, also addressed the meeting.

A letter campaign to the Mayor and a mass rally in Albany were voted by the meeting.

One-hundred dollars was collected from the audience, of which half was donated to Mrs. Ferrell. The other half went to the Civil Rights Congress to carry on the fight.

POLICE SLAP FERRELL

On the night of Jan. 10, police had been called to investigate an alleged disturbance. Two policemen went to the Ferrell home at 7 p.m. and found Ferrell quiet in the bedroom. He left the house peacefully with the police. Upon leaving the house, one of the policemen started slapping Ferrell without provocation.

About 9 p.m., the police informed Mrs. Ferrell's aunt that Ferrell had hung himself 10 minutes after his arrest in his cell. Later the police told Mrs. Ferrell that her husband had hung himself 40 minutes after his arrest. They claimed he used his belt and asked her not to blame the police.

Mrs. Ferrell, accompanied by Leo Carrington and Mr. and Mrs. Al Davis, then went to the funeral parlor where Ferrell's body had been taken. They were prevented from seeing him until after the coroner had made his speedy examination. The four were then allowed to view the body before it was embalmed. All four swear that there were definitely no marks of any kind on the neck and that the face was not swollen. After instructing the undertaker not to embalm the body before they could secure a doctor, they began to search for a physician on the advice of Rev. Delaney, their pastor. Before they could obtain a doctor, however, the body was embalmed.

Carrington, Ferrell's uncle, then attempted to secure information about the death from the 1st Precinct police station, but was unsuccessful. The press blacked out the story. In the south end district where John Ferrell and his friends and relatives lived, neighbors dismissed the thought of suicide. Ferrell had worked as a laborer at the Veterans Administration, and also had a second job at the port to support his family.

Questions scheduled to be put to Mayor Erastus Corning are:

- Does Albany's Jimcrow police force have the right to slap Negroes without provocation?
- Isn't it customary for belts to be taken from the prisoners?
- Weren't there any witnesses to the hanging?
- How was the prisoner taken to the police station booked, locked up, hanged and dead 10 minutes after his arrest?
- Does not death by strangulation leave physical evidence and isn't this shown by a broken neck or by marks on the neck plus swelling of the face, lips and tongue
- Is not an autopsy customary in cases of violent death where the cause of death is not beyond question?
- Will the police produce the belt and explain how this thin, torn belt could be the hanging instrument.
- Why was the body embalmed against the demands of the widow? What were the police trying to hide? 1-25-49
- When is the police brutality going to stop in Albany?
- When are Negroes going to be employed on the police force?
- When are the police going to be paid high enough salaries to attract better men?
- Is the violent death of a young Negro father in the South End no longer newsworthy, or did the police prevent the newspapers from obtaining the story, or was the story killed by the O'Connell censorship of the local press?

DEWEY SAVES NEGRO SLAYER FROM THE CHAIR

Albany, N. Y., Nov. 16 (AP)—Gov. Dewey today saved from the electric chair a New York City Negro who was sentenced to death despite a jury's recommendation for mercy.

Chicago

The governor commuted the death sentence of Samuel Titto Williams, 20, to life imprisonment. He had been scheduled to die tomorrow night in Sing Sing prison's electric chair.

Williams was convicted March 2, 1948, for the fatal beating of Selma Graff, 16, of Brooklyn, during an attempted burglary of her home. Thurs. 11-17-49

The jury recommended life imprisonment, but Judge Louis Goldstein ordered the death sentence for what he said were "the best interests of society." Williams was convicted on a first degree murder charge. In New York state, a death sentence is mandatory upon conviction on this charge, unless the jury recommends leniency.

13c 1949

New York

Claims It Never
Atlanta, Ga.
Shown Mental Ward
Daily World
Would Have Recovered

13c N.Y.

NEW YORK — (NNPA) — The Court of Claims of New York State admitted last week that guards in the Manhattan State Hospital on Wards Island beat a colored man to death there in 1944, but the presiding judge who made the finding only awarded the man's Harlem widow $3,500 in cash and the cost of his funeral expenses.

The decision was handed down in the Bronx Court of Claims last Tuesday by Judge Bernard Ryan after a five-year court battle by the widow of the victim to prove that state officials caused the death of her husband and to force the state to pay her for his death

Melvel Snitow, of the law firm of Snitow and Snitow, who represented the widow, announced last Thursday that he would appeal the decision and seek $40,000 in damages for the death of the man. It was also reported that as a result of the findings of Judge Ryan, charges of murder may be lodged against the men responsible for the death of the victim.

Wed. 8-31-49

Judge Ryan found that George Stevens, a 53-year old Harlem dress salesman, met his death as the results of "assaults made upon him, the said Stevens, while an inmate of Manhattan State Hospital, by attendants employed thereat."

FAILURE TO SHOW

But he limited his award of damages to the widow to $3,500 and the $747.38 it cost to bury the deceased on the ground that she had failed to show in her suit that her husband would ever have sufficiently recovered from his mental illness to "resume his place in society nd earn his livelihood." He further ruled that the widow's suit failed to show that her husband's death had "resulted in pecuniary loss" to her or his family.

13C N.Y.

Atlanta, Ga.

Stevens was admitted to the Manhattan State Hospital on Wards Island May 16, 1944, after apparently becoming deranged while watching a baseball game between the Brooklyn Dodgers and the New York Giants.

Wed. 8-31-49

Testimony at the trial, which was heard between November 8 and 12, 1948, showed that Stevens had been brutally beaten by attendants on several occasions between May 16 and May 28, 1944, and that, as a result of such beatings, he died May 28 from "a fractured skull, subdural hemmorage, cerebral compression, and that a contributory cause of death was general paresis."

On several occasions the testimony showed, while his wife visited him at the hospital, Stevens complained to her that he had been beaten by attendants and told her on the day before he died that if she did not get him out of the hospital he would be killed. His widow testified that her husband had pointed out to her one of the men whom he said had beaten him.

13c 1949

Oregon

Victim, 15, Found Under Log Pile

Portland, Ore., Aug. 11 (AP)—A sallow-faced young man led police today to the body of a 15-year-old girl who had been beaten, stabbed, and hidden under a log pile near a Portland bridge.

Louisville, Ky.

Police said the man, picked up on another charge, voluntarily blurted out the story of a brutal slaying that police had never suspected.

13c

They said Morris Leland, 22, Portland, who has a long criminal record, admitted killing the girl after she refused his advances, because "she was a good girl and would make trouble with the police."

Reported Missing by Parents.

The girl—Thelma Taylor, Portland, a young farm worker—was reported missing by her parents last Saturday.

Sgt. Vern Nicholson arrested Leland this morning on suspicion of driving a stolen car.

On the way to the Police Station, Leland said he wanted to talk to homicide detectives, because he knew about a murder. Detectives said Leland told them he had killed a girl last Saturday, and led them to a log pile in the brush in north Portland.

There police found the girl's body, fully clothed in the bobby sox, plaid shirt, and levis she had been wearing when she left her home last Friday morning to pick beans at Hillsboro. The girl had been beaten on the head and stabbed twice with a knife.

Police quoted Leland as saying he picked up the girl Friday, and held her in the brush Friday night.

13c 1949 Pennsylvania

10 Jurors Ask New Trial for Negro

13c Pa.

Special to the Daily Worker

PHILADELPHIA, June 29.—Ten of the 12 jurors who convicted Byard Jenkins Negro youth, for murder last Nov. 23, have asked the court for a new trial.

This astounding break in the campaign to free the 19-year-old victim of a police frame-up was revealed when personal letters from each of the 10 jurors, including the foreman, were presented to Judge Frank Smith, the presiding judge now considering Jenkins' plea for a new trial.

Julius Jenkins, father of Byard Jenkins, delivered the jurors' letters to Judge Smith in his City Hall Chambers Tuesday afternoon. He was accompanied by a group from the Free Jekins Committee who had called on the jurors.

All the jurors based their plea for Jenkins on new evidence uncovered after they had convicted the youth of murdering Mrs. Kathryn Meller last June 8, on the sole evidence of a repudiated "confession" which Jenkins charged police forced from him.

The new evidence centered around a confession to the murder two weeks after the trial by Hebert Gulembo, white grave digger. Gulembo later repudiated his confession, but powerful evidence corroborating it was unearthed by the Pennsylvania Worker. Daily World

A new trial for Jenkins, wrote one of the jurors, "will uphold the standard of justice of which our democratic government is so proud."

The state continues to press for Jenkins' execution. The prosecuting district attorney, Raymond Speiser, is opposing a new trial with a number of affidavits supposed to "clear" Gulembo, but which actually verify most of his confession. Atlanta, Ga.

The Pennsylvania Worker, which initiated the campaign for Jenkins' freedom, has maintained since Jenkins' original trial that he was another Negro victim of a legal lynching. Thu. 6-30-49

The Free Jenkins Committee has warned that the unprecedented action of the 10 jurors in demanding a new trial will not free Jenkins unless the whole city joins the campaign.

13c 1949

Policemen by Negroes (Maryland)

Accused Held Without Bail

113c W

by negroes

Enters Not Guilty Plea at Northwestern

The Afro American
Baltimore, Md.
Sat. 1-8-49

SHOT 2 OFFICERS

One Victim Succumbs to Dec. 12 Wounds

BALTIMORE

After Northwestern District Patrolman John Arnold died in Maryland General Hospital, early Thursday, Edward Grear, 41, 708 W. Fairmount Ave., was formally charged with the fatal shooting.

Late that afternoon, Grear was taken from the city jail to Northwestern police court where Magistrate Thomas L. Fitzpatrick permitted him to enter a not guilty plea. He was held without bail pending a further hearing.

Officer Arnold, 53, a veteran of 28 years of police duty, was shot in the abdomen when he and Patrolman Norman Mike answered a call to investigate a disturbance in the vicinity of Biddle and Little Pine Sts., on Dec. 12. 1-8-49

The officers told Captain Feehley they were sent to the scene after receiving a call that a man was choking a woman.

Both Officers Shot

Upon arriving, they approached the man who whipped out an Army revolver and fired point blank at the two patrolmen, wounding both of them. Officer Mike was shot in the knee. 1-8-49 Sat.

Several hours later, Grear was arrested near the Camden Station by Western District police.

Sgt. Edward Manning, of that district, said the arrest was affected only after a revolver had been knocked from Grear's hand as he attempted to use it.

13c

Birmingham News

GETS 15TH REPRIEVE—Samuel Taylor (above), 22-year-old Negro, charged with raping a 14-year-old white girl, has received his 15th reprieve from Gov. Folsom. He was sentenced to die in the electric chair June 13, 1947. His latest escape from death came this week. He was scheduled to die in the Kilby Prison electric chair Friday night, but Gov. Folsom postponed the execution again. (Associated Press wirephoto.)

Sun. 3-20-49

Birmingham, Ala.

Saved From Chair By 15th Reprieve

Pittsburgh Courier

13c

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—For the fifteenth time, 22-year-old Samuel Taylor of Mobile, Ala., has been saved from death in Alabama's electric chair. For the third time his steadfast plea that police in Pritchard, Ala., beat a confession out of him is headed back to the United States Supreme Court. Taylor was accused of raping a 14-year-old white girl in March, 1946.

Pittsburg, Pa.

Sat. 2-26-49

Governor James E. Folsom granted Taylor a ninety-day reprieve Thursday night to enable his counsel to get their newest petition on its way to the U. S. Supreme Court, which has twice before turned Taylor down in previous pleas. Nesbit Elmore, white Montgomery lawyer, is working with the NAACP legal staff in the effort to save young Taylor's life. He seeks freedom through a writ of habeas corpus,

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Reprieve For Indiana Youth Granted By Supreme Court

Daily World

13c

Atlanta Ga.

WASHINGTON — In an order signed by Justice Frank Murphy, the United States Supreme Court this week granted a stay of execution for Robert Austin Watts, Indiana Negro youth sentenced to death on a murder charge.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People filed the motion for stay of execution before the Supreme Court after the Supreme Court of Indiana had denied a petition for rehearing of the case. The NAACP maintains that there are two federal issues involved in the case-that of exclusion of Negroes from jury service and the use of a confession allegedly obtained under coercion.

NO SERVICE Tue. 2-8-49

Although the names of Negroes were placed in the jury box in Marion County, NAACP attorneys pointed out that no Negroes had served on the grand jury in the county for more than twenty-five years. The NAACP charged further that Watts was held for a long period of time and questioned in solitary confinement after his clothes had been taken from him, and that no lawyers or friends were permitted to see him. He was not arraigned until eight days after his arrest. Tue. 2-8-49

After the Supreme Court of Indiana affirmed the conviction and sentence and refused to grant rehearing of the case, the motion for stay of execution was presented to the United States Supreme Court and granted the day before Watts was scheduled for execution. The petition for reprieve was vigorously opposed by the Attorney General of the State of Indiana.

The case is being handled jointly by Special Counsel Thurgood Marshall and Assistant Special Counsel Franklin H. Williams of the national office of the NAACP, and Warren M. Brown, Willard B. Ransom, and Henry Richardson, attorneys for the Indiana State Conference of NAACP branches.

Negro Doomed By S.C. Court Wins Freedom

Courier

Sat. 9-3-49

Pittsburgh Pa

AIKEN, S. C.—(ANP)—L. D. Harris, freed several weeks ago by a U. S. Supreme Court ruling, was dismissed from prison last week when State Solicitor B. D. Carter announced that the State had dropped its case.

Harris had been held in prison for weeks, although the Supreme Court had ruled that the "confession," on which he was convicted for the murder of two whites, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Bennett, was obtained through force.

13c

Harris was originally convicted by Judge J. Robert Martin Jr. The State Supreme Court by a 5-4 vote upheld the conviction, but the highest court of the nation reversed the ruling. Judge Martin had sentenced Harris to die in the electric chair Feb. 28, 1947.

NEGRO BLAMED

When the couple were found shot Sunday morning, April 28, 1946, Bennett incited the search for a Negro when his dying words were "A big Negro shot and robbed me." His wife died before she could make a statement.

Although Harris is a small fellow, authorities picked him up in Nashville, Tenn., where he worked as a laborer and arrested him. Police grilled him and finally announced that he had confessed "freely and voluntarily."

Judge Martin then appointed State Sen. Dorcey K. Lybrand and former State Rep. Leonard R. Williamson, and Julian B. Salley Jr., of Aiken to defend the Negro. Carter introduced the "confession" as a evidence, but Harris' attorneys objected. On this point they appealed to the State Supreme Court, then to the U. S. Supreme Court.

HELD SINCE JUNE

The Supreme Court made its ruling June 27, but prison officials kept Harris for "safekeeping" until last week.

In the meantime the sheriff, W. Price Fallow, has been forced to raise funds contributed by white citizens for the prosecution of the case. A total of $1,009 in cash was donated by fifty-four persons and others contributed pledges of $1,485.

Three Arrested For Forcing Man To Jump Off Bridge

SALISBURY, N. C. — (ANP) — Three white men were being held by Sheriff J. H. Kirder for the alleged taking of a Negro for a ride and forcing him to leap from a steel bridge last week.

The whites arrested were William Edgar Hoover, 28, of Rowan county; Leroy Vinston King, 28, Pisgah, and Simpson L. Saunders, 23, Troy. They are accused of taking Alex Brown into their automobile at the point of a gun and then forcing him to leap from the bridge.

Two white women, both sisters, were arrested along with the men. They were Beulah and Lula Mae Ban of Randolph county.

Man Freed By Supreme Court Still In Prison

COLUMBIA, S. C. —(ANP)— L. D. Harris, 25, Negro prisoner freed by a U. S. Supreme Court decision recently, is still being held by the South Carolina state penitentiary, according to the latest reports this week.

Wed. 8-17-49

The Supreme Court freed Harris from his conviction of the fatal shooting of Edward L. Bennett at the white man's store April 28, 1946, on the grounds that his "confession" was not "freely and voluntarily made." The Negro had claimed that police officers beat him and threatened him with a blackjack.

13c

Prison authorities said they had heard nothing official concerning the Supreme Court action.

WHITE KILLER GETS LIFE

Afro-American

SPARTANSBURG, S.C.—David L. Crane, 29, white, was convicted by an all-white jury last week, of killing Starling Turner, 10, colored, last June 23, at the Crane home near Fingerville during an argument over paying the boy for a dozen eggs. A mercy recommendation makes a life sentence mandatory.

10-29-49

Life Sentence In Slaying Of Boy

SPARTANBURG, S. C. — (ANP) — A white man was convicted here last week for killing a Negro boy in a quarrel over payment for a dozen eggs. The jury consisted of 12 white men.

13c

Wed. 10-26-49

A recommendation of mercy was included with the conviction. This will mean a sentence of life imprisonment. The state had asked for a death penalty.

David Lee Crane, white, 29, testified that he shot Starling Turner, 10, after they had argued over payment for eggs which Turner delivered to the Crane home.

Farm Tenant Resents Reprimand Of White Overseer In Presence Of Wife And Child-Shotgun Duel

(13c)

Memphis World

Memphis Tenn. Fri. 3-11-49

White farm manager Glen Smith, and Negro farm tenant Johnny Qualls, are both in John Gaston Hospital as the result of a shotgun duel which they staged early last Sunday evening. Tenn.

The owner of the farm on which both worked, Mrs. Glen Bowen Golzman, 60, a white widow woman, is dead, after having been hit at close range by a .410 gauge shotgon charge which according to the judgement of Sheriff James E. Thompson of Shelby County, was "apparently accidental."

According to published reports of Sheriff's office testimony, "At 5:30 Sunday evening the sheriff's office was notified about a shooting at Hughey and Weaver Roads, in the southwest section of the county". Details of the shooting and affair were furnished by sheriff's deputies Hall and Smith. 3-11-49

The testimony stated that "A white man and a Negro were involved in a shooting . . . the sheriff deputies' investigation revealed that Smith, employed as farm manager for Mrs. Holzman and Qualls, of a servant's house on the Holzman farm. It was later revealed that the argumeit accurred in front the Qualls's cabin, in the presence of the Negro tenant's wife and infant child. Qualls lived only a short distance from the home of Mrs. Holzman . . . which on cotton plantation jargon is called "the big house" Mrs. Holzman lived here alone.

"A fist fight resulted from the argument betwen Smith and Qualls, and after getting the white man down on the ground, Qualls allegedly tried to open a pocket knife. He couldn't open the knife.

Then, according to some witnesses, Qualls let Smith get up. Smith left, claiming he would return and kill Qualls. Smith went to the Holzman home and got his pistol and a shotgun and went back to where Qualls was living. Some said Smith fired into the Qualls home. They said Qualls returned the fire thru the walls of the house. They exchanged several shots. Both men wounded each other slightly.

By some unexplained fashion Qualls walked up on Smith and took his firearms from him. He knocked Smith down and began beating him and kicking him. Mrs. Holzman stopped the attack by firing her shotgun in the air, according to reports. Qualls was still on the scene with he shotgun in his hands when sheriff's deputies arrived.

13c

An ambulance had been called to take Qualls to the hospital. But, instead a colored ambulance crew was asked to take Smith to the hospital, since he seemed to be the most seriously injured. Qualls also injuried, was taken in the sheriff's deputies' car to John Gaston Haspital. 3-11-49

No charges were placed against either man at first.

After the deputies had completed their investigation, they were informer the next morning the office about the death of Mrs. Holzman, who was found by school children enroute to school. They described her death as an accident.

Alleged Slayer Is Returned From Ark.

Memphis, Tenn. World

Alleged to have fatally shot a woman as she stood in front of the N. Cleveland Street Curb Market, Samuel Leon Praytor was brought back to Memphis last week from Blythesville, Arkansas where he had been in hiding since the shooting in May.

Praytor returned to Memphis last Thursday in the custody of Chief Inspector Pete Wiebanga and Inspector Wilkinson of the Homicide Bureau after being apprehended by the Blythesville Police.

Eye witnesses say that Praytor was the man who shot Willie Mae Bonner, 35, as she stood by the Curb Market on Tuesday May 17th. One shot was fired at the woman and she stumbled for about fifty feet along the sidewalk before falling dead. Fri. 10-7-49

Taken to John Gaston Hospital, she was pronounced dead on arrival from a bullet wound in the neck.

The couple was reported to have had an argument over some money which Praytor had given the woman to pay on a bill for some furniture and when she could not tell him exactly what she had done with the money he became enraged and shot her. 13c Tenn.

At a hearing in Shelby County Court yesterday, Thursday, Praytor was bound to the State on a charge of murder and carrying a pistol.

Sharecropper Held For Boss' Murder

13 Tenn.

SHELBYVILLE, Tenn.—The Bedford County Sheriff said early this week a sharecropper has admitted the shotgun slaying of his employer in an argument that came "after they moved a divan into my room and I couldn't have a fire." Courier

Dead is Tom Neal, 66, tenant farmer of the Putnam Well community of Longview.

CHARGED WITH MURDER is Dave Murry, 44, who said he had "made crops" with Neal for the last two years and lived in Neal's frame farmhouse.

Sheriff Hoyte Pylant said Murry told him: Sat.

Murry and Neal came home Friday night from a trip to Murfreesboro. Neal's wife had moved a davenport into Murry's room. Murry said he couldn't have a fire in his room without setting the couch afire. An argument ensued. 12-17-49

Pittsburgh.

Neal reached for a gun. Murry picked up a shotgun and fired at Neal. Neal fell before the fireplace in his room. Several friends were present. They scattered. Neal's wife dove under a table. Murry went to a neighbor's house. He surrendered to the sheriff the next day. Pg

* * *

DEPUTY SHERIFF R. C. Paschel said Neal died instantly, shot through the head with birdshot.

Sheriff's deputies, State Highway Patrolmen, and bloodhounds from the state penitentiary in Nashville tracked Murry through frost-covered woods. The dogs lost the trail.

13c 1949 Texas

White Lawyer, Negro Threaten Each Other As Result Of Crash

The News

Birmingham, Ala

Mon. 7-11-49

DALLAS, July 11—(AP)—A white lawyer and a Negro accused of threatening to kill each other both were free today. Mem. 7-11-49

The lawyer, Noah Roark, made his threat in court. He told the court he'd post bond for the Negro for the pleasure of killing him.

13C

The incident occurred during a habeas corpus hearing for Ozzie Watson, 31, a Negro charged with threatening to kill Roark.

Roark told County Judge Ben. B. Brown, "I'm going to kill him (Watson) if I ever get a chance. As a matter of fact, I'll post his bond for the pleasure of doing it."

This brought temporary arrest for Roark, but he was freed after promising not to carry out the threat.

Watson was originally charged with a "threat to kill" the attorney and assault his wife after Roark and Watson's cars were in a minor collision. Watson was fined $2,000 and sentenced to two years by Judge Brown. Brown reversed that ruling later, admitting he had commented that if he had been in Roark's shoes he would have killed the Negro.

Saturday, Watson told the court he would like to move to Fort Worth. His attorney told the court it showed his intention "not to carry out his threats to anyone."

The judge agreed and Watson went free on $10,000 bond.

Va. Governor Stays Willie Rose Execution

Atlanta, Ga.
Daily World
13c Va.

RICHMOND, Va. — (NNPA) — Governor William M. Tuck last Tuesday commuted to life imprisonment the death sentence of Willie Rose, 28, of Norfolk, Va.

He acted three days before Rose was scheduled to be electrocuted at the State Penitentiary here last Friday for the fatal shooting of his wife, Gladys Rose, last March 7.

Jan. 10-2-49

The Governor made known his decision in letters to the Judge of the Norfolk Corporation Court, where Rose was convicted of first degree murder last July, to the Norfolk Commonwealth's attorney and other officials.

"I am advised that the prisoner's counsel was not in the best physical condition at the time of the trial," Governor Tuck wrote," and I am convinced that the condemned man was not vigorously defended."

Daily World

"Had he had the benefit of such a defense, the result may have been the same; nevertheless this is a circumstance which warrants consideration and which in my opinion justified favorable action on this application.

10-2-49
13c Va.

"In view of this fact presented to me in connection with this case among others, I am commuting the sentence of Willie Rose from death in the electric chair to the term of life imprisonment in the Penitentiary of Virginia."

Under Virginia law, life termers are not eligible for parole.

Rose was accused of killing his wife, wounding another person and assaulting a third in a dispute on the night of March 7.

Homicide Rate In City Above Average In Nation

Journal and guide

Norfolk, Va.

Records Reveal Over 285 Colored People Killed By Members Of Race In Ten Years

Sat. 12-24-49

Editor's Note:—This is the first of a series of articles on violent deaths among Norfolk's colored population. The purpose of this series is to focus public attention on the increasing insecurity of life in Norfolk and to get city officials and the public to do something about it.

-13c Va

By THOMAS L. DABNEY

NORFOLK—Death in violent mood stalks the streets of Norfolk. The city's homicide rate is alarmingly high and deaths in the homicide class among Norfolk's colored population are regularly three and four times as high as among the white population.

A semi-annual report of the Federal Bureau of Investigation last September revealed that Norfolk's rate of murder and non-negligent manslaughter is above the average for cities of more than 100,000 population in the United States.

One day a man slays another in a knife cutting scrape and that night a man burns to death in a trailer fire. By the end of last August, 17 colored residents of Norfolk had been killed by members of their own race. From 1940 to the end of last August, 285 colored people had killed members of their race in the city, according to police records.

ALL DETAILS NOT GIVEN

The record does not give all the gruesome details of death of people in this city at the hands of gunmen, careless and indifferent policemen, knife wielders or of those fatally injured by automobiles or burned to death in fires in shacks in slum areas where many of Norfolk's colored people are forced to live.

It is time to call a halt on the needless slaughter of human beings in this city. It is time to plan for the future safety of little children, too many of whom are consumed in flames as their tottering hovels burn to the ground.

Three persons were injured, one of them seriously burned, when fire destroyed a two-story residence near the corner of Chapel and Tanner streets about midnight 4. The usual cause, an exploding oil stove, started the fire.

TOTS BURN TO DEATH

Two days later, Dec. 6, two tiny tots died in a disastrous fire in Berkley. Again it was the explosion of an oil stove which caused the fire that did considerable damage to their home while their mother was visiting a neighbor. The victims were Carroll Ellis Towe, 2 and Shirley Elizabeth Towe, 5.

Take the acute problem of colored people killing each other: According to the police record the number killed yearly were 14 in 1940; 28 in 1941; 37 in 1942; 39 in 1944; 31 in 1945; 32 in 1946; 30 in 1947; 28 in 1948 and 17 through August, 1949, or a total of 285.

In that same period only 72 white people were killed by whites, according to the record. Sixteen colored people are reported killed by whites during the ten-year period while 14 whites were killed by colored people in the city. In all, 301 colored people were killed in comparison with only 86 white homicides for the ten-year period.

The proverbial "nickle under the foot" is enough to get one colored person in this city to kill another. Sometimes an argument over who is winner in a crap game or who is best man in a billiard game may end in murder.

Wounds 3, Attempts Suicide

Berserk Hubby Kills 2 on Spree

The Courier,

Sat. 6-25-49

Pittsburgh, Pa.

(150)

(Special to The Courier)

SOUTH HILL, Va.—Earl Powell, a Union Level prison parolee, went berserk here recently while on a search for his wife, and before he was subdued he had killed a two-year-old child and a 17-year-old girl, slashed himself and another man seriously, and three other persons were wounded by gunfire, according to local police.

Powell was arrested after shooting it out with State Troopers R. E. Bagby and J. S. Atkins, both of South Hill, the town's night watchman; M. M. Walker, and Mecklenburg County Sheriff C. O. Mullins. Powell was lodged in jail at Boykin and then transferred to St. Philip's Hospital in Richmond. His condition is critical.

[illegible] SHOTGUN

Dead are Geraldine Tisdale, 2, and [illegible] Ellen Stone, 17. Wounded by gunfire were James Edward S[illegible], 21, Myrtle Tisdale, 30, and David Lee Tisdale, 4. Also taken to a Richmond hospital for treatment were Aubrey P. Creedle, 30, and Alfred White Stone, also 30, both white.

Policemen who fought it out with Powell told the following story:

Powell went to the home of Creedle's father, Cleveland P. Creedle, where his wife, Neta Powell, is employed. Sat. 6-25-49

DIDN'T FIND WIFE

Not finding his wife there, Powell used abusive language while talking with Creedle and Mrs. Creedle. Getting back into his car, Powell drove to a service station nearby, which is opened by Aubrey Creedle, and tried to enter the younger Creedle's home, but was prevented from doing so by Aubrey Creedle and Stone. In the struggle Creedle and White suffered cuts described as "serious."

Then Powell walked to the nearby homes of Stone and Tisdale. The Tisdale child was shot while she was being held in her mother's arms. The mother, Mrs. Myrtle Tisdale, was wounded. She also is the mother of David Lee Tisdale.

SET HOUSE AFIRE

Sheriff Mullins said that Powell next set a nearby house afire, but that the blaze was extinguished after causing little damage. Meanwhile, Sheriff Mullins continued, police at South Hill had been notified of Powell's actions and found him in a field about six miles from this town. The gun battle followed.

Norfolk Has More Than 2 Killings Per Month—Why?

Journal and Guide

City's High Rate On FBI Semi-Annual Crime Report Provokes Concern Of Civic Leaders

13c Va

By JAMES N. RHEA

NORFOLK—Two men argue about a pint of whiskey in a foul, hot—perhaps windowless—room somewhere in the heart of any Norfolk slum area. One man draws a knife. In a minute or two the other is dead or is dying.

This is largely how Norfolk's murder rate increases.

"They seem to kill about nothing!" an harassed police executive comments.

Sat. 10-1-49

The executive is speaking of the surface motives for the crimes. He knows that deep under the surface are motives that seldom are uncovered in a trial. Then Chief of Police Amor LeR. Sims voices optimism.

Norfolk, Va.

INCREASE STANDARD OF LIVING

"If you increase the general standard of living," he says, "you go a long way toward cutting down the crime rate. I firmly believe this will be illustrated in this city when the new housing program is established."

It was the FBI's semi-annual crime report that had drawn Chief Sims and a Journal and Guide representative into conversation. That report placed Norfolk above average for cities its size—in murder and non-negligent manslaughter. The FBI listed 15 murders in Norfolk from January through June, 1949.

Here is bad news to put more furrows on the brows of conscientious community leaders: Since the FBI report the number of legally unjustified killings has grown to 20.

LIVING STANDARDS VS. CRIME RATE

Of that 20, 16 were killings of colored persons by colored persons. Two colored persons were killed by persons unknown. Look at this local data with regard to the nationwide FBI report: Negroes, making up approximately 10 percent of the population, accounted for 25 percent of the arrests.

What does this prove?

Sociologists agree that the difference between the standards of living of Negroes and whites, even at the bottom of the economic structure, partly accounts for the difference in the rates of crime between the two races.

Deep resentment among Negroes against an unjust society, with the inevitable take-it-out-on-Joe complex, also explains their crime rate. And so, no one need be fooled by cold figures without sociological explanations.

CRIME RATE LIKELY TO REMAIN HIGH

The crime rate of Negroes is likely to remain higher until racial discrimination, and economic inequalities are abolished. Chief Sims is right in saying that increasing the general living standard will cut the general crime rate, but those at the bottom of the new standard probably will still account for the most crimes.

What we should be worried about is that the general base of crime is going up. Most of the offenses are "hoodlum crimes" — those committed by individuals, such crimes as rape, one-man robbery, aggravated assault.

And young people are the prime offenders. J. Edgar Hoover said that persons under 25 accounted for the majority of crimes. Does the increase, however slight, reflect moral degradation in the wake of World War II? Emotional instability in the face of a possible third world war?

Do local communities need to inspire in their youth a deeper sense of belonging, of social balance?

EPISCOPAL RECTOR SEES RELIGION AS FACTOR

The Rev. Richard P Martin, rector of Grace Episcopal Church, has commented: "The blanket term 'crime' does not answer fully for the religious analyst who would seek to understand determining causes. Many factors and drives, psychological and sociological, form the complex background for criminal action.

"Statistics show, however, that crime is less frequent among church-goers. This admits that not enough people attend church. I am convinced that the church must extend its influence beyond the "respectable fringe" of society where it might help to lift mankind at all levels.

"How people act and react to the pressures and drives of living is the concern of the Christian Church. The Christian Church in Norfolk cannot excuse itself from the evils of the community. We do not get rid of a problem when we merely fix the blame. The church must redeem."

What we should be worried

YMCA SECRETARY CONCERNED

Horace G. Christopher, local YMCA secretary, observed:

"I am very much concerned about crimes in the city. Most seriously involved are youths between 18 and 24. One contributing factor here is inadequate recreational facilities and another is that many youths have no jobs. Some crime will always be with us, but much of it can be prevented if the community will show a greater sense of responsibility for its youth."

Back to Chief Sims.

As a law enforcement executive, his emphasis is on crime prevention. He says Norfolk must have more and better trained policemen. He says we must adopt a policy of putting only the best trained men in uniform. He says Norfolk's high general crime average should be considered with these facts in mind:

LARGE TRANSIENT POPULATION

The city has the largest uniformed population in the country. A seaport town, it has a large number of other transients. The town has its normal and expected crime load, plus the addition from these passers-through.

The cheif said this:

"When you raise the general standard of living, you raise the general standard of respect for law and order."

To repeat — perhaps our new housing program will illustrate this.

Youth, 20, Killed In Negro House

PHENIX CITY, Ala., Dec. 17—(AP)—A 20-year-old Seale, Ala., youth was shot and killed early today at a Negro's home in Phenix City.

Assistant Police Chief Buddy Jowers quoted the Negro, Andrew Carnes, as saying he slew the white boy after the latter had broken in his home and after he had warned him to stop threatening him.

The dead youth was identified as Bennie Ray Driggers, son of Mrs. Joe Mayo.

Carnes has been booked on a murder charge and a hearing is schedule for Monday.

Jowers said Carnes told him he was awakened by a loud noise at the door early this morning. He said he grabbed his shotgun and held Driggers at bay while his wife went to call police.

When his wife left the room, Carnes told police, Driggers started toward him. He said he warned him to stop and then shot him.

News
Sat. Dec 17 49
B'ham, Ala.

13c 1949

Whites by Negroes (Alabama)

Negro Youth Admits Birmingham 'Slaying

Advertiser 13c/

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Nov. 3—(AP)—An 18-year-old Negro today admitted the slaying of a Birmingham night watchman last Feb. 13.

Fri. 11-4-49

The Negro, Claude B. Sims, was arrested Tuesday in Selma. Birmingham detectives said they had traced Sims' movements through several Northern states.

Montgomery, Ala.

He is charged with the slaying of John Harden, 55, watchman at Victory Freight Lines. Harden was shot to death.

Search For Negro Reaches Mississippi

13c Ala

FLOMATON, ALA., Dec. 28—(AP)—South Mississippi officers today joined the hunt for a Negro man wanted for questioning in the shotgun slaying of a South Flomaton, Fla., grocer.

Police Chief George White said the Negro, Robert Kelly, may have gone to Mississippi where he has relatives.

Advertiser

Cary Hammac was shot to death in his store Monday night. White said the shooting may have been a case of mistaken identity, since it was known that Kelly quarreled with another white man earlier in the day.

Thurs. 12-29-49

Hammac's grocery store is located in Florida, about 100 feet south of the Alabama-Florida line.

Montgomery, Ala.

Boy Is Slain In Wetumpka; Negro Jailed

Montgomery Ala

Montgomery Advertiser

Body Of Clyde Peak, 15, Is Found In River; Killed With Own Gun

Admission Claimed

Ex-Convict Spirited Away After Being Charged; Called A Sex Murder

Tues. 2-15-49

By **GERALD J. McALLISTER**
Advertiser State Editor

WETUMPKA, ALA., Feb. 14.—The body of Clyde A. Peak, Jr., 15, was found today in the Coosa River, and two hours later Sheriff Lester Holley quoted a Negro lumber yard worker as confessing he murdered the boy.

Holley identified the Negro as J. C. Winters, 20, an ex-convict.

The sheriff said the Negro admitted that he violated the boy, then beat him to death with the barrel of an air rifle young Peak had been using to hunt birds, and threw the body in the river.

The sheriff and highway patrolmen immediately spirited Winters to Kilby Prison for safekeeping "because feelings ran high" over the crime. Holley described the murder as the "worst I have seen in 18 years as a law officer."

Confessed In Hour

Holley said he kept the news of the Negro's arrest a secret until after he had removed the suspect to a Kilby cell. The Negro confessed to the crime after being questioned at the Elmore County jail for an hour, the sheriff reported.

The sheriff's office was flooded with telephone calls, but there were no organized demands for the prisoner.

Search for the boy started after he failed to return home last night. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Peak, asked for help. Approximately 150 men combed the area along the Coosa River where the boy had gone hunting alone. The body was found in shallow water about three miles southwest of here.

C. B. Edwards, who found the body, said he noticed a fragment of cloth hanging on a bush along the river bank. He probed the water with a stick and discovered the body.

Holley said that Winters had been released from state prison approximately a month ago after serving a nine-month sentence for assault and battery. He was convicted of assaulting a white man. The Negro had also been convicted previously of a petty larceny charge.

Choked With Belt

Holley gave this account of the sex murder:

"Winters met the boy in a pecan grove near the river. He chatted with the boy and then persuaded Peak to go with him along the river.

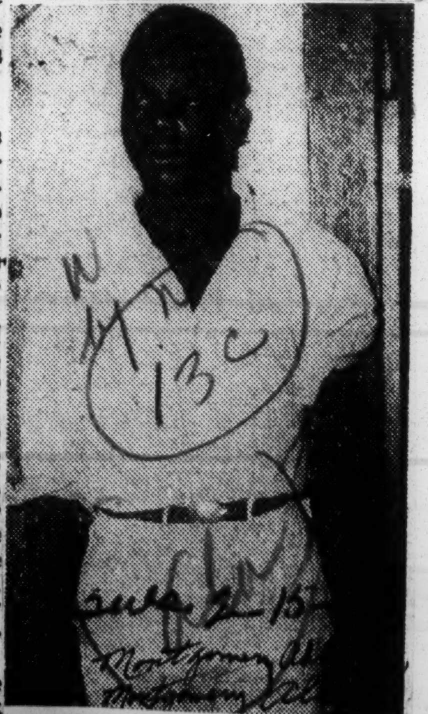
"He then seized Peak, took the boy's belt and choked him until Peak submitted to his proposal. The Negro said he became frightened that the boy 'would tell on him'. He struck Peak three times with the barrel of the air rifle, opening a three-inch gash on the back of his head. He then threw the body in the river."

Tues 2-15-49

Holley said he immediately suspected Winters because of his past record, went to the lumber yard where he had been employed approximately 10 days, and arrested him, after he showed where he had hid the air rifle in a boiler room.

He is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Peak; three brothers, Benson W., Donald W., and Richard A. Peak; one sister, Mary Katherine Peak, all of Wetumpka. Funeral services will be held at 4 p.m., Tuesday at the residence, with the Rev. J. A Hill officiating. Burial will be in Wetumpka Cemetery.

His father is a well-known building contractor.



J. C. WINTERS, 20, Negro, is being held at Kilby Prison on charges of murdering Clyde A. Peak, 15, yesterday. Sheriff Lester Holley quoted Winters as confessing the slaying after admitting he had violated the boy.

Tues 2-15-49

Wetumpka Boy Beaten To Death By Ex-Convict

Birmingham

Negro Confesses Violating Youth, Then Killing Him

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Feb. 15—(AP)—A Negro convict who admitted beating a 14-year-old white boy to death with an air rifle was back in Kilby Prison today for safekeeping.

He was arrested shortly after young Clyde A. Peak was found dead in the Coosa River near Wetumpka, Ala., yesterday.

Elmore County Sheriff Lester Holley said he had highway patrolmen rush the Negro, J. C. Winters, 20, to Kilby shortly after he admitted violating the boy and then killing him so he "wouldn't tell."

* * *

THE SHERIFF said he kept news of the arrest a secret until he could get him out of the county, because "feelings ran high" in his community.

The boy's body was found in an overflow of the river about three miles southwest of Wetumpka. The discovery climaxed a search by more than 100 men. His head was badly battered, his clothes partially ripped off.

Tues 2-15-49

Young Peak had been missing since early Sunday when he left home to go hunting. His parents turned in the alarm when he didn't show up Monday.

Holley said he arrested Winters at a lumber yard, where he worked, about two hours after the body was found. The Negro confessed within an hour, he added. Then he took the sheriff to the boiler room of the lumber yard where he hid the boy's rifle.

* * *

THE SHERIFF said the Negro gave this account of the crime:

He met the boy in a pecan grove near the river where Peak had gone to hunt birds. They chatted awhile, then Winters persuaded him to go down near the river "where there were plenty of birds."

Winters then seized him, took the boy's belt and choked him until he submitted to his proposal. Afterwards he became frightened, clubbed the boy to death "to silence him" and threw his body in the river.

The sheriff said the Negro was released from Kilby Prison about a month ago. He served nine months on an assault and battery sentence from Elmore County. He was charged with assaulting a white bus driver.

Previously, Holley said, Winters had been convicted on a petty larceny charge.

Young Peak's father is a Wetumpka contractor.

Ex-Convict Indicted For Brutal Murder Of Wetumpka Youth

Birmingham News

WETUMPKA, Ala., Feb. 23—(AP)—J. C. Winters, a 20-year-old Negro ex-convict, was indicted here yesterday for the sex murder of a white youth.

Wed 2-23-49

A special Grand Jury indicted the Negro just eight days after the body of 14-year-old Clyde Peak was found in the Coosa River near here.

Winters admitted that he forced the white youth to submit to a sex offense, then killed him so he "wouldn't tell."

Birmingham Ala

Sheriff Holley said Winters admitted choking the boy with a belt until he yielded the sex act, then beat him to death with the boy's air rifle.

Winters was taken to Kilby Prison after his arrest because "feelings ran high," Sheriff Holley said.

The Negro is scheduled to be tried in Circuit Court here next month. The sheriff said he will be held at Kilby until then.

Winters served nine months on a charge of assault and battery against a white bus driver and was released from Kilby about a month ago, Holley said.

Elmore Negro Is Indicted For Murder

Montgomery Advertiser

Ex-Convict Is Held In Sex Slaying Of White Boy

Montgomery Alabama

WETUMPKA, ALA., Feb. 22—(AP)—A Negro ex-convict was indicted here today for the slaying of a 14-year-old white boy.

The murder indictment against J. C. Winters, 20, was returned by a special grand jury just eight days after the body of Clyde Peak was found in the Coosa River near Wetumpka. The boy disappeared the day before while on a hunting trip.

Wed 2-23-49

Winters was arrested shortly after the body was recovered and admitted, Sheriff Lester Holley said, that he made young Peak submit to a sex offense, then killed him so he "wouldn't tell."

Holley quoted the Negro as saying he choked the boy with a belt until he yielded to the sex act, then beat him to death with the boy's air rifle. After his arrest, the Negro was taken to Kilby Prison because, the sheriff said, "feelings ran high" in Wetumpka.

Winters was still being held in Kilby when the grand jury indicted him today. His trial is scheduled in Circuit Court here next month.

Holley said the Negro was released From Kilby about a month ago after serving nine months on a charge of assault and battery against a white bus driver.

Negro Jailed After Aliceville Man Slain

Birmingham News

ALICEVILLE, Ala., Jan. 26—**James Earle Wilder, 24-year-old Negro, is being held in Greene County Jail, Eutaw, in the slaying of Freddie Grayson, of Aliceville.**

Wed 1-26-49

According to officers, Grayson was killed on the porch of Wilder's home, where he had gone with a companion, Verner Knox.

Birmingham Ala

Wilder told officers the shot was fired after Grayson had scuffled with his father. Grayson was shot one time in the head.

The Negroes forced Knox to remain at the house until officers arrived. Knox was unhurt.

Wilder admitted the slaying, officers reported.

Negro Is Charged In Traffic Fatality

Montgomery Advertiser

SELMA, ALA., March 14—(AP)—A manslaughter charge was brought against a 42-year-old Negro here today after an automobile accident in which a white woman was killed and her husband and two children were injured.

Montgomery Ala

Sheriff William C. McCain said Ben Seltzer was charged with manslaughter and his bond was set at $750.

Tues 3-15-49

The Negro will be tried Thursday morning in a Selma Court of Common Pleas, the sheriff said.

The accident occurred about 25 miles south of here Saturday night on highway five. A car driven by Albert E. Dillard of Prichard collided with a truck driven by Seltzer, Highway Patrolmen M. G. Rush and L. H. Hudson said.

Mrs. Dillard, 28, was dead upon arrival at a Selma hospital. Dillard sustained fractures of the arm and ankle. A blind daughter, Shelby Jean, 10, suffered a broken arm and lacerations, a son, Richard Irvan, 3, suffered a compound squll fracture.

Seltzer was reported uninjured in the accident.

Constable Is Fatally Shot Repossessing Negro's Furniture

News

[illegible], 10-9-49

BY BONNIE HAND

LANETT, Ala., Oct. 8—Bloodhounds from Kilby Prison this afternoon looked for a scent in the woods near Lanett that would lead them to a Negro accused of slaying a constable at the Negro's home earlier in the day.

Birmingham News

Fatally shot was [illegible]al Groover, 35, constable of Beat 17, here. Groover was repossessing furniture from the home of Joe Nathan McCoy, on the Lafayette Highway, a mile from Lanett, when the Negro fired a rifle shot into Groover's heart, killing him instantly.

Ala.

Groover was serving an eviction notice entitling him to repossess the furniture when he was shot.

13C Ala

Sheriff J. M. Abney of Chambers County called for bloodhounds from Kilby after the Negro reportedly fled into the woods near his home.

The State Highway Patrol was summoned. Three airplanes circled over the area, seeking sight of the hunted man, who is armed with a rifle.

Negro

The sheriff said there was some feeling about the shooting in the community, but he didn't anticipate any mob action.

"We can handle things if we catch him," he said.

13c

Confessed killer dimples at inquest, poses, doesn't let his "fix" touch him

Los Angeles Tribune

Los Angeles California

By ALMENA DAVIS

Dimpled, young Leroy Slade was eapparently enjoying the limelight during the first stages of his detention for the murder of his plumply pretty young employer, Mrs. Frances Duben, when he attended the coroner's inquest on Wednesday. But whether he can maintain his aplomb through the uncertain and trying days of the forthcoming trial, in which his life will be sought in payment for the crime he allegedly admits, is the question.

A rather nice looking, youthful man, with a dapper appearance, despite the shabbiness of his clothing, Slade was probably the most bored observer at the inquest, which ended Wednesday morning with an order by the coroner's jury to hold Slade for murder.

Through the heartrending testimony of the slain woman's mother, throughout the accusing testimony of his common-law wife, and as the rheumy-eyed ancient who serves as foreman of the coroner's jury read the verdict, Slade sat, looking unconcernedly out of the window, or playing with his large, misshapen hands. At one point, during the recess while the jury deliberated, he even dozed, resting his lean young face on his hand, sitting by the large window which opened out onto the broad vista of the Civic Center and a freedom which it is hardly likely he will ever know again.

Sat. 4-9-49

GRINNED AGAIN

Apparently as an afterthought, Slade stood on his constitutional rights and refused to testify at the inquest. Already, allegedly having confesed to stabbing Mrs. Duben because he "didn't like the way she talked to me." Slade would probably have spilled the whole story right then and there Wednesday had not deputy coroner Edwin O. Lennox dutifully reminded him that he did not have to testify there and testimony might damage his defense.

Called to the stand to formally identify himself, Slade ambled unconcernedly forward and raised his right hand, "solemnly" swearing to "tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth."

He gave his name. Then as Tribune photographer Craig Lasha moved forward to snap his picture, he moved the hand microphone aside, to give a better view of his left profile, which is distinguished by a deep, almost dime-sized dimple. Sitting just inside the rail during testimony of the other witnesses, he had grinned at times and had struck a pose each time the photographer trained his lens on him. He also returned each stare coolly and deliberately.

I'm no psychiatrist, but I would say Slade probably is the victim of as flamboyant an ego as I have ever seen. And it was probably that ego, expanded by drink, which caused him to seize a butcher knife and lash out at pretty Mrs. Duben in the kitchen of her new $40,000-Beverlywood home last Saturday morning.

"Why, why did you do it?" Blanche Jones, his neat little common-law wife testified she asked him.

And his answer spoke volumes for his swaggering, empty soul, a soul which no doubt brooded continuously over its own unimportance:

Sat. 4-9-49

"I didn't like the way she talked to me about being asleep and not getting to the lawn," he is alleged to have said.

Slade sat unmoved as the crying, shaking mother, Mrs. Rosa Cohan, who lives at 2350 Crenshaw, on the edge of a rapidly developing Negro neighborhood, was half-carried from the witness stand. Photographers poised their cameras as she passed by him, anticipating that she might hurl herself at the confessed slayer of her daughter, but she had given away so completely, it is hardly likely she knew she was so close to the man.

Mrs. Cohan's testimony was almost more than the most hardened observer in the court could bear. She began to cry when the coroner opened the inquest with a reading of the police report. Through the initial questions, which must have been painfully vivid to a mother who had found her daughter's body, naked and bloody and dead, she tried valiantly to control herself.

But her breath came hard. The hand which held the microphone shook convulsively. Her voice was harsh with despair. She spoke each line with the finality of doom as she told of finding the body, "on the floor!" . . . "naked!" . . . "gone!" . . .

"Oh, God!" she said as she collapsed, almost into the laps of the avid photographers.

Before she broke down, she identified Slade as the handyman who had "not very much duties" around her daughter's house, who "was never allowed in the house.

"Yes, I see him," she told the coroner . . . "Yes, I see him." Then, "Oh, God!" and she collapsed into wild sobs which could be heard down the corridor as she was half carried-half led away.

HUSBAND NOT PRESENT

Mrs. Duben's husband, owner of a Santa Monica furniture store, waswas not in court. Attaches indicated that had he been, it would have been bad for Slade. The husky, tragically widowed father of the two chubby, now motherless Duben children would probably have wiped the defensive smirk off Slade's face with his fists.

Instead, his stepfather, a small, hurt little Jew who said his son's wife had never complained of any trouble with Slade, identified the body. He said Mrs. Duben was about 30 and was born in Minneapolis. A neighbor, Herschel Resnick, testified to hearing Mrs. Duben in the yard with her children shortly before the murder, and to seeing Slade around. The arresting officer, Paul Light, testified to taking Slade into custody in the sheriff's office in the Hall of Justice where he gave himself up Saturday; to his confession, and to a previous arrest and conviction for assault with a deadly weapon in Mar. 1947, also for auto theft in March 1948, and other petty offenses such as gambling and drunkenness over the past two years.

Light said there was no evidence or indication that Slade had attempted to rape Mrs. Duben, either before or after he killed her. She was naked when the body was found, her bloody clothes crammed into a wastebasket in the kitchen, but Slade's explanation was that her clothing became torn and bloody as she struggled for her life, and, frantic after killing her, he had stripped them from her body. He also washed the murder weapon, a butcher knife, and returned it to the rack.

Sat. 4-9-49

Mrs. Jones, who is almost 10 years Slade's senior, and who told the Tribune she had been living with him in common law two years but had been "his companion three years," told a straightforward story of her knowledge of the killing.

Dark, neatly dressed, and small, she talked in a rich, contralto voice without looking at Slade; and when she had to pass him to get to her seat, she was tense.

Employed by the Dubens five weeks, she and Slade lived in the garage apartment. At about 9:15 Saturday morning, she went to the store, taking the two-year-old baby with her. When she returned, she met Slade coming out of the house, his shirt bloody.

"What happened?" she asked.

"I think I have killed the lady," he said.

Slade was carrying Mrs. Duben's purse, Mrs. Jones said. He removed the change purse when she warned him he couldn't "go through the street carrying a woman's purse," and set the bag inside the door.

"I did just as he ordered me," Mrs. Jones said. The pair left the children in the yard, got their possessions, and left, "walking in and around the streets to Washington and West Adams where we got the bus."

They went to her niece's home at 2181½ W. 27th st., Mrs. Jones said, where she whispered to her niece's husband "what had happened and asked them to help me get out of the house away from him so I could free myself."

From there they went to another relative's house on the Westside, and from there to 4320 Lima st., where they made their home when they were not on a job.

There, Mrs. Jones telephoned police to find out if Mrs. Duben were really dead. When it was established she was, she and Slade went down to the Hall of Justice and surrendered.

"Out of love or something," her common-law-husband doesn't want her implicated in anyway in the crime, Mrs. Jones said.

Asked by this reporter if he was "on the make" for Mrs. Duben and had possibly been spurned by her and for this reason had killed her, Mrs. Jones denied this; she added rather proudly that she never had any trouble with him about other women.

Sat. 4-9-49

He was easy to get along with, except when drunk she said; and he was drunk at the time of the killing and had been out all night.

Slayer tells own version

Sat. 6-25-49

Los Angeles Calif.

Sat. 6-25-49

It appeared to be clear sailing toward a manslaughter conviction yesterday for Leroy Slade as he finally took the witness stand in his trial for murder and described the provocation for the slaying, of his allegedly nagging employer, Mrs. Frances Duben.

The Tribune

In a triumph for defense attorney Vince Monroe Townsend, both robbery and rape which Deputy District Attorney Mervin Aggeler had sought to establish as motives for the killing were ruled out of consideration.

Judge Harry J. Borde, in whose Santa Monica courtroom the case has been going on for more than two weeks, said the prosecution had established no evidence of either motive and said he would instruct the jury to give them no consideration at all.

Robbed of a motive, the prescution, which has asked the gas chamber for Slade, has little chance of seeing his conviction for more than second degree murder.

ONLY WITNESS

After two weeks of testimony for the presecution, Slade took the stand Thursday afternoon as his only witness.

Prompted occasionally by his counsel, and crying sporadically, he described events of the morning of April 2 when he took a knife and chased the plump Mrs. Duben through the lower floor and up the stairs into her bedroom where he plunged the knife into her right, then her left, breasts.

He testified that he was recovering from a hangover after spending the entire preceding night out drinking, and that he was badgered into coming downstairs to fix a toy by Mrs. Duben's small son.

There he was berated and insulted by the boy's mother for not cutting the lawn. Following her into the house to discuss the matter, he suddenly went berserk, seized a kitchen knife and cut her, cutting her clothes half off her body in the process.

Mrs. Duben's mother and sister, coming in response to the child's whimper that his mother was "laying on the floor and won't talk to me," found her naked and bloody, sprawled on her back on the rug. Slade said he stripped the woman's clothes completely off in a panic and put them in a waste basket.

Before Slade took the stand, Townsend on a motion, secured a ruling against the coin purse as evidence. The purse was found in Slade's common-law wife's apartment, and the prosecution had attempted to establish that it was taken by Slade from Mrs. Duben's pocket book, that it contained money, and thus he had robbed her.

13c

W by negros

Cal.

POSED BACK—is Leroy Slade, ordered held to face a probable first degree murder charge for last Saturday's stabbing of his white woman employer, wealthy Mrs. Frances Duben. Slade assumed, and carried off, a debonair air which said, 'This thing doesn't touch me,' during the coroner's inquest Monday; and when Tribune photographer Craig La sha aimed his camera at him, Slade struck a haughty pose.

Sat. 4-9-49

Police tests make Negro a possible suspect

The Tribune, Los Angeles Calif.

Deductions of crime laboratory experts had established today that sex was not the motive in the sadistic murder of Mrs. Louise Springer, 97-pound white hairdresser, and investigating detectives had left town to investigate the possibility that the killer had derived from the dead woman's former home in another part of the state; yet, police were still seeing "black" in their search on the homefront for the slayer.

Sat. 6-25-49

Even as they cleared one Negro, a carwasher who had been employed in a service station near the May Co. employees' parking lot from which Mrs. Springer was abducted, police arrested another.

They said Charles Bratton, of 215 W. 46th st., who gave his occupation as a boxer, was picked up as he loitered near 126 W. 38th st. where the decomposed body of Mrs. Springer was found.

Officers said they stopped Bratton in front of 3760 Woodlawn and he said, "This is only a block from where that thing happened."

The officers took this as evidence that Bratton knew something about the crime, and hauled him in for grilling.

Russell was arrested Tuesday after the murder and two days before the body was found, on complaint of Mrs. Ruth Anderson, of 3819 Wall st., that he peeked into her house and tried to force his way in.

Police questioned him for several days after they learned he had worked the past year in the service station near the May company where Mrs. Springer was employed.

Then he was given 30 days in jail as a drunk, and checked out as a suspect in the case.

Russell gave his address as 5414 Fortuna, and said he is married and the father of one child. He denied knowing anything about Mrs. Springer's murder.

A young Mexican, Alonzo Jiminez, 16, of 407 W. 47th pl., who testified at the inquest, said he took it for granted the killer was a white man. He said a police car pulled up opposite the Springer's Studebaker convertible in which the killer sat, while Mrs. Springer's newly dead body was lying under a canvas on the rear seat.

The car had been driven up and stopped hurriedly at the curb, Jiminez said, followed immediately by a car driven by a friend of his, Jack, whom the police had flagged down for a traffic violation.

"Jack" stopped immediately behind the killer and his corpse, Jiminez said, and the police car pulled up alongside the killer's car.

The officers didn't get out, but called "Jack" to them, spoke with him, then drove off.

The man in the Springer's car just sat there while the officers were alongside, then when they left, fumbled in the backseat.

He stopped looking then, Jiminez said and turned back to his girl friend, Carmen Aviza with whom he was sitting on the front porch. When they looked up, the man was gone, leaving the car behind.

Jiminez said he got the impression the man was white, but said police had made tests to see whether the race of the assailant could be determined from the distance of the porch in the night, and concluded that it could not.

The presence of the strangle mauled body, a 14-inch twig stuc almost as a gesture of contempt the woman's rectum, was not d covered until three days later wh a regular passerby, noting that t car had not been moved, report it.

The woman had not been robbe or raped, police have determine leading to the assumption that the murder was a planned, fiendish act by someone with reasons for wanting Mrs. Springer out of the way. Neither of the two Negroes, held as suspects, admits knowing her.

A95027
13c Calif.

WANTED—Object of a manhunt is 19-year-old Sylvester Hill, suspected of the murders of two white men in holdups. Sheriff's Homicide Chief, Lt. England said Hill, who escaped from his Watts home minutes ahead of the detectives, headed a band of marauding Watts youths, all 9 of whom are in custody on various charges of robbery, kidnapping, and murder, and all of whom finger Hill as the actual killer of Floyd McClurg, aircraft worker, and aged Albert C. Christianson.

Los Angeles Calif

9 arrested, say leader, 19, killed two whites

A 19-year-old Watts youth, only six months out of the Youth Authority prison at Lancaster, was the object of a citywide manhunt today, as sheriff's homicide detectives named him as the brutal, cold-blooded killer of two helpless white men in gang holdups.

Sylvester Hill, who escaped from his parents' home in Watts minutes ahead of detectives, plied the brick which beat Floyd W. McClurg, 36-year-old Inglewood aircraft worker, to death last Dec. 11, Detective Lt. England charged today; and Hill also inflicted on 69-year-old Albert C. Christianson, of 5519¾ S. Compton, the beating from which he died Nov. 21, England said.

The detective said that one of the 9 members of Hill's maurading band of robbers and kidnappers, Henry Walter Everhart, 20, of 2124 E. [illegible]th st., said McClurg, who had been drinking in a near-by tavern when the youths waylaid him, held out his hand to them, but Hill commanded Everhart to "hand me that brick," then beat the intoxicated man to insensibility and left him to die in an alleyway after stripping his pockets.

Los Angeles Calif

Two members of the gang, which had been preying on residents of the Southeast area for several months, are charged with two counts of murder and robbery, and their preliminary hearing will be held Wednesday. They are Everhart and Wilburt Thomas Temple, 19-year-old truck driver and father of two, of 11233 Success.

13c

Simon LeRoy Whitfield, 18, of 9617 Juniper, is charged with two counts of robbery; Robert Lee Smith, 20, of 1824 E. 109th st., with three counts of robbery and one of kidnapping; Bennie Carrol Meyers, 19, of 11658 Lou Dillon, with one count of robbery and one of kidnapping; Raymond Smith, 18, 1515 E. 110th st., two counts of robbery; Nathaniel Hudson, Richard Davis, and Ronnie Hudson, one count each of robbery and kidnapping.

PAWNED WATCH CLUE

The case, which had been bedeviling detectives for weeks, was broken by the discovery of Christianson's girl friend's watch in a Watts pawnbroker's shop.

The watch, in the aged man's posession for delivery to a watch repairman, was pawned innocently, Lt. England said, by the boy friend of Everhart's sister.

Everhart told his sister that a girl had given it to him and that he didn't want it and needed money, instead.

Everhart's arrest led to the arrest of the other 8, and to the attempt to capture Hill.

Officers said Everhart is an a.w.o.l. private from Fort Bragg. He is the son of a retired Army sergeant, who said he thought his son was home on furlough and did not know of his criminal activities.

13c 1949

Whites by Negroes (California)

CO-WORKER—Mrs. Blanche Jones, who also lived with self-confessed killer Leroy Slade, as his wife, carefully tells the coroner's jury the story which left her in the clear in the fatal stabbing of her wealthy white employer last weekend. Slade was mean-tempered when drunk, Mrs. Jones said; and had been out all night drinking before the killing.

Los Angeles Tribune
Los Angeles, Calif.
Sat. 4-9-49

exandria Policeman Shot

d Slaying Admitted by Man waiting Trial for 2 Killings

The Post
Washington D.C. Thu. 2-17-49

SERGT. THOMAS WOODS — INSPECTOR HAWES — SERGT. FRANCIS JOHNSON

They followed underworld tip and solved the slaying

By Al Lewis and Charles Davis
Post Reporters

A man who is awaiting trial for two District murders has confessed to the slaying of an Alexandria policeman, Washington and Alexandria police announced yesterday.

They said Joseph W. (Pudey) Hunter, 26, of 1247 Union st. sw., admitted the fatal shooting last September 11 of Alexandria Police Pvt. Robert B. Harris.

Hunter, indicted here for two slayings last October 30 during the course of a holdup outside the Rosalia Theater, confessed to the Alexandria murder after two hours of questioning at the District Jail, police said.

At first, police said, Hunter denied being in Alexandria the morning Harris was slain but finally broke and told the whole story. According to police, this is the story he told: Thu. 2-17-49

At about 2:40 a. m., he was standing at the corner of Madison and N. Washington sts., Alexandria, waiting for a bus to take him back to Washington. He had with him two rifles, a 9 mm. weapon of German make and a .35 caliber Remington.

He wore fatigue trousers with pockets slightly above the knees. In this way, it was possible to carry a rifle in each of the low-slung pockets and hide them with his overcoat. Thu. 2-17-49

he was tired and wanted on the curb while he waited the bus. The German-make was broken down and offered difficulties. The Remington he in bushes nearby.

It was then that the policeman (Harris) appeared. He asked Hunter what he was doing. Hunter replied that it was "none of his damned business."

Harris "roughed" him up. Hunter retreated to the bushes, grabbed up the Remington and pulled the trigger. The rifle did not fire. The safety catch was on. Hunter began to run, with Harris in pursuit.

About a block away was the Howard Johnson Restaurant, at N. Washington and Montgomery sts. Hunter darted to the rear and the policeman followed. Hunter swung around and fired point-black at Harris.

Hunter then turned and fled and made his way back to Washington.

'Tip' Followed 10 Days

The above statement, police said, was made after Alexandria detectives convinced Hunter they had clearly tied him to the case.

For the past 10 days, Inspector Russell A. Hawes, chief of Alexandria detectives, and Detective Sergts. Thomas Woods and Francis Johnson of Alexandria had been pursuing a tip that originated in an underworld hangout in Richmond, Va. Thu. 7-19-49

Word reached police that someone had remarked in the Richmond hangout that "Pudey" was the one who killed the Alexandria policeman. Their investigation finally led them to Hunter.

Yesterday they told him they had conclusive evidence that he was in Alexandria the morning of the Harris shooting, that he was carrying two rifles and that he had tried to buy ammunition for the German-make rifle.

Police said when Hunter agreed to confess to the murder of the policeman he made one request, that his mother, Mrs. Pearl C. Hunter, be allowed to visit him at the jail. This request was granted and the mother visited him later.

D. C. Detectives Assist

Assisting in the questioning were two members of the Washington force, Detective Sergts. Paul Clarke aand Edwin Crandall of the robbery squad.

At the time of Hunter's arrest in connection with the Rosalia Theater murders, Alexandria detectives visited Washington and questioned him but he denied knowledge of the Harris slaying.

Police said when they finally got the tip leading to Hunter, they were convinced he was their man. A rifle had been used in the Rosalia Theater murders and an autopsy on the body of Harris showed he had been slain with a high-powered bullet, possibly from a rifle.

They said he laughed when he described how he carried the two rifles in his pockets and said: "You wouldn't believe it, would you?"

He told them he always carried a rifle "for protection," they added.

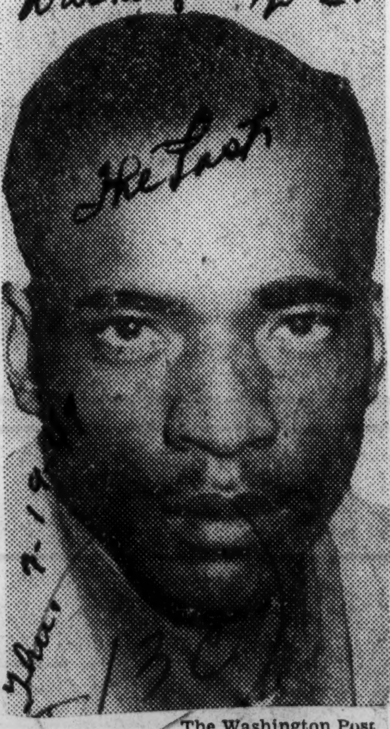
In the Rosalia Theater holdup last October 30, James E. Washington, 52, manager of the theater, of 1436 W st. nw., and Herbert Smith, 25, of 1224 7th st. nw., a bystander, were killed and three boys were slightly wounded.

Washington was slain with a rifle bullet as he was entering his car near the theater, at 218 F st. sw., with a zipper bag containing several hundred dollars in receipts.

The bandit exchanged gunfire with police before escaping.

Accused Slayer Confesses Another

Washington D.C.



The Post
Thu. 7-19-

The Washington Post

JOSEPH W. HUNTER
Tells the story

State Opposes Request For Review By Jake Bird

Journal Guide
Norfolk Va.
Sat. 4-9-49

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(NNPA)—The State of Washington has asked the United States Supreme Cour to deny the petition of Jake Bird for a review of his conviction in the Pierce County Superior Court at Tacoma, Washington, for first degree murder.

Bird was convicted on Nov. 24, 1947, of the murder of Mrs. Berther Kludt and her daughter, Beverly, with an axe while burglarizing their home in Tacoma early on the morning of Oct. 30, 1947.

MAN CAPTURED

Neighbors, alarmed by the screams from the Kludt home, called police and the officers who responded to the call testified at the trial that they saw Bird as he left the rear entrance of the house.

The police pursued and captured him nearby and placed him under arrest after a struggle in which two officers sustained knife wounds and Bird was badly beaten.

The state admits that Bird was struck by an officer several times while en route to the hospital in a patrol wagon. It seeks to excuse the conduct of this officer by saying that he was affected by the scene of carnage" in the Kludt home, and the sight of his bleeding brother officers.

The state says "this young patrolman, but recently cut of United States Naval Service. lost his head and struck" Bird with his fists and club.

DURESS DENIED

The state denies that any duress or coercion was used to obtain a confession from Bird. The oral confession, it maintains was given by Bird, who, arrested in flight, realized that "his crimes were overtaking him, and having been unsuccessful in getting his arresting officers to shoot him to death, then desired to explain everything.

The state also contends that the case presents no federal question during his trial or an appeal to the Washington Supreme Court which sustained his conviction.

Bird contends that the confession was obtained by torturing him until he was in fear of his life, at a time when he had not been brought before any court and was not represented by counsel. He claims that it was a violation of his constitutional rights to use such a confession in evidence against him. Sat. 4-9-49

He also contends that the trial court erred in refusing him a transcript of the trial record for the prosecution of his appeal before the Washington Supreme Court.

Bird was due to be hanged on Jan. 14, but Justice William O. Douglas on Dec. 24 stayed his execution pending the filing of a petition in the Supreme Court for a review of his conviction. Justice Douglas acted on a pen-and-ink letter Bird sent to the Supreme Court.

Bird Hanged After Six He 'Hexed' Died

Afro-American
Sat. 7-23-49

WALLA WALLA, Wash. (NNPA) Jake Bird, 47-year-old axe-murderer, was finally hanged last Friday after the United States Supreme Court had turned down an appeal for a stay of execution.

His execution took place in the Washington State Penitentiary, despite Bird's assertion that he had cast a "hex" on all officials connected with his trial. Outwardly calm, he said nothing to the crowd of more than 100 spectators who watched the execution.

The Rev. Arvid Ohrnell, who has been Bird's spiritual adviser during the final days, read a note written by the transient, declaring he bore no malice to anyone and sought forgiveness.

Before the minister had finished reading, the trap was sprung. Fourteen minutes later, the prison physician pronounced Bird dead.

Since his conviction, Bird had predicted that as a result of his "hex" most of the officials would be waitin' at the pearly gates" when he showed up. At least, he saw six of those connected with his trial, including the trial judge, die suddenly.

Afro-American

He was hanged for the murder of Mrs. Bertha Gludt in Tacoma, Washington on Oct. 30, 1947. Mrs. Kludt and her 17-year-old daughter, Beverly, were slain with an axe while Bird was burglarizing their home. Bird is said to have confessed 42 other murders.

Although he had received little formal education Bird's legal knowledge enabled him to carry his case through numerous courts and delay his execution for a year and a half.

Condition Serious

Writer, 36, Stabbed in Chest By Man He Tries to Assist

Post Tues. 8-23-49

A former Washington newspaper reporter, now a free lance writer, was in serious condition at Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, last night, as result of a stab wound suffered when he attempted to be a "good Samaritan."

He is Alfred Toombs, 36, now of Colston Point, Md. His wife, Mrs. Constance Toombs, who was with him late said the wound was inflicted when he went to aid a man previously "badly beaten."

He received blood transfusions at St. Marys Hospital, Leonardtown, Md., before being transferred yesterday to Johns Hopkins Hospital.

Mrs. Toombs said the stabbing occurred after she and her husband noticed a number of men apparently arguing at a place called Avenue, Md.

"Just as we started to drive around the cars, a colored man that semed to have been very badly beaten staggered and ran out of the crowd. He got into a car and started along the road ahead of us.

"After we had gone a little way, the colored man's car stopped. Alfred thought he had collapsed. He got out to see if he could help.

"As he got to the other car, the man opened the door suddenly and stabbed him in the chest. Alfred never knew what struck him".

Mrs. Toombs said they drove to the nearby home of a physician, and then to St. Mary's Hospital.

Maryland State Police at the Waldorf headquarters said that Trooper G.E. Sanger, who covers the Leonardtown area is investigating the case.

Tombs was formerly employed by the Washington Star, the Washington Times-Herald, and the Chicago Daily News. During the war, he was in the Army psychological warfare service. Since the war, he has done free lance writing for national magazines, and was employed for a time by the Woman's Home Companion. He has an article in a current issue of Collier's Magazine.

His parents are Lieut. Col. and Mrs. Alfred G.L. Toombs, 2208 Cathedral Pl. nw.

Post
Tues. 8-23-49
Washington, D.C.

Whites by Negroes (Georgia)

(13c) W by N

Bandits Kill Columbus Woman

Atlanta Constitution

Brother-in-Law Wounded in Gun Fight As Pair Flees Store

Atlanta Georgia (Ga)

COLUMBUS — (AP)—Two Negro bandits shot and killed a white woman storekeeper here last night and wounded her brother-in-law in a running gun battle.

Police Chief John G. Newberry said Mrs. Mary Faust Jones, 35, was killed when the pair held up her husband's small store in a Negro district. Both escaped.

[illegible] 9-14-49

Thomas J. Hall, 42, was admitted to City Hospital with a gunshot wound in the left chest. Chief Newberry said Hall was shot as the two Negroes fled the scene.

Newberry said he believed the two killers, one described as short, the other tall, were definitely the same who robbed a Negro grocery of $28 Wednesday night, holding its operator, a Negro woman, at gun point.

The chief said the dead woman's husband, Edwin W. Jones, was in the store when the pair walked in with drawn guns. Mrs. Jones, who was in the rear of the establishment, screamed. The shorter Negro fired once, the bullet striking her in the left chest, Newberry said.

Hall heard the shot from his liquor store next door, the chief said, and ran to the scene with his gun. The Negroes exchanged shots with him as they ran down the street. Hall's condition was not immediately determined.

Newberry said a hat believed to have belonged to one of the Negroes was found near the store.

(13c) W by N (Ga)

Carroll County Negro Here For Safekeeping

Atlanta Daily World

Temple Citizens Fear Consequences Of Bad Feelings

Atlanta, Ga

Tues. 2-15-49

Following his arrest Sunday, a 65-year-old retired section hand was being held for safekeeping in Fulton tower Monday charged with the murder of a Temple, Georgia white farmer.

The accused was listed as Ernest Elliott, of Temple, Georgia who shot and killed B. C. (Smut) Karr on the streets of Temple during a dispute, Carroll County Sheriff James Denver Gaston disclosed. Elliott's arrest followed a warrant sworn out by the dead man's widow, Mrs. Anna Bella Karr, it was said.

Tues. 2-15-49

SHOT THREE TIMES

In relating the circumstances of the shooting, the Sheriff said Karr was shot three times by Elliott following an exchange of words between the two men. Sheriff Gaston said he learned that Karr was on a shopping tour in the Main street vicinity when he drove his car in close proximity to a group of Negroes about to attend a lodge meeting. Someone in the group made a remark that prompted Karr to engage in a heated dispute, the Sheriff asserted. During a brief altercation, Karr was said to have slapped Elliott with the latter backing up, withdrawing his pistol and firing three shots at the white man. The bullets were reported to have taken effect in the chest, arm and heart. Karr's two sons were reported to have been with him at the time of the shooting.

FLED TO IN-LAWS' HOME

Following the shooting Elliott fled to Haralson county and took up quarters with his brother-in-law who resides there, the Sheriff said. He was arrested there late Saturday and spirited to Atlanta.

The case awaits a probe by the Carroll county grand jury which meets in April.

Meanwhile, it was learned that Elliott has a son living in Atlanta. When contacted he gave his name as Orange T. Elliott of a Coleman Street adress. The son said he had conversed with his father Saturday following the shooting. He claimed to have learned that the dead man was advancing on his father with a pocket knife when his father shot in self defense.

Elliott, the father, was secretary of the Masonic Lodge in Temple.

(13c) W by N

First-Degree Murder Charged To Prisoner

Daily World

Alleged Escape Attempt, Previous Murder Term Cited

Atlanta, Ga.

Fri. 7-22-49

The shovel used in the city stockade slaying of Jessie C. Haynes, 65, 2251 Sutton St., S. E., looms as the outstanding piece of evidence against Jessie Jordan, alias Charlie Wyatt, 37, of 440 Austin Drive, Decatur.

Jordan has been charged with the first-degree murder of the aged white prison guard but the circumstances surrounding the slaying remained hazy and confused with conflicting versions apparent over what happened during those hectic moments from the time Jordan allegedly became incensed over towel distribution, snatched the shovel from a small anteroom and bludgeoned his way to the rear of the barracks.

Fri. 7-22-49

What tension and confusion caused the 40 or more prisioners to be helpless against the reportedly enraged Jordan? Was Jordan moody and frustrated over the failure of an alleged escape attempt which was foiled by Stockade Supt. H. H. Gibson several days ago? What emotional disturbance had caused Jordan to refuse to work on the prison farm?

IN DEKALB JAIL

These questions no doubt will be answered when a DeKalb County Grand Jury acts on the first-degree murder charge of Jordan. The accused slayer was removed from the City Jail Thursday to the DeKalb County Jail.

Records of the State Board of Corrections reveal that Jordan was convicted on July 27, 1931 on a charge of murder in Newton Superior Court, at Covington, with a recommendation of mercy. A drunk-disorderly conduct charge is believed to have caused his recent imprisonment.

Witnesses testimony indicate that Jordan had been confined within the barracks all day and had already been issued towels for "the weekly bath check." When other prisoners returned from the farm Jordan reportedly insisted upon another towel. Reminded that he had already received his Jordan is said to have snatched several from the "door boy" attendant and rushed into the barracks. Several prisoners are believed to have attempted to force Jordan to return the towels and at that point he picked up the shovel and fought them off, retiring to the back of the barracks.

"FEARLESS TYPE"

Haynes, described by Supt. Gibson, as a "fearless type" and a "real disciplinarian" approached Jordan and tried to take the shovel from his hands. Haynes was reportedly stunned by the blow and fell to the floor. It is believed that the man was struck ten or twelve times.

Supt. Wilson declared that "Haynes handled the case differently from the way I should have handled it, but then he was the fearless type and a real disciplinarian."

The forty or more prisoners that reportedly witnessed the attack were confused about what happened.

Supt. Gibson said that Jordan escaped more than a week ago and that he overtook him in his car and brought him back to the prison. No detail of punishment meted out for the attempted escape was noted by the stockade head.

Detective Sgt. L. T. Bullard, who was assisted in the investigation by Detectives J. E. Helms and W. M. Holland, states that Jordan had served about half of a 30-day sentence on a charge of drunk and disorderly conduct-failing to pay a cab fare. Jordan has less than a week remaining on this sentence.

Coroner S. D. Warren, in ruling on Haynes' death, ruled that the veteran guard came to his death from multiple skull injuries inflicted at the hands of Jessie Jordan.

Home For Ingram Family Formally Opened Monday

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World Tues. 7-12-49

State Leaders Participate In Brief Ceremonies

BY MARION E. JACKSON

LESLIE, Ga—(SNS)—Trhough the generosity of the people of the United States and the unceasing efforts of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People the family of Mrs. Rosa Lee Ingram was given a new, completely-furnished home and a subsequent new lease on life Monday at a brief ceremony.

Mrs. Geneva Rushin, who is the guardian of the imprisoned woman's children accepted the keys and the title to the structure after hearing speakers' prophecies that their mother would one day come home to live with them in it.

The presentation was made under the leafy boughs of an ancient and gnarled Oak tree just in front of the new home. It was the nation's tribute to a Georgia mother. who fought a continuous struggle with an enraged Schley County sharecropper John Ethron Stratford on November 2, 1947 resulting in his death.

Daily World

COMMUTED TO LIFE

As a result, Mrs. Ingram was sentenced to death along with her sons Wallace and Sammie Lee. The sentence was later commuted to life imprisonment. The people of the United States showed their indignation at Georgia's treatment of this tragic mother and thousands of dollars poured into the office of the NAACP for her defense. It was out of these contributions the new home was built.

Tues. 7-12-49

Col Austin T. Walden of Atlanta told the outdoor gathering that the new home "symbolizes that the Negro people as well as the whites are determined more and more to see that every prison have simple justice under law."

HOUR OF TROUBLE

He said contributions for the home represented "the outpourings of the hearts of the people of America and the response to this appeal in the hour of trouble and difficulty test our faith."

He insisted that out of the "bounty and munificence of the people of the nation this house was made possible."

He praised the house" as the type people should have in the country as well as the city."

"It is a symbol of the sympathy and interest of millions of people in the United States."

Rev. J. B. Dorsey presided over the service. He presented W. R. Burleigh, a member of the Americus

NAACP Committee who cooperated with the national NAACP in the construction of the house. Mr. Burleigh, the contractor said he supervised every part of the work as if "each nail was being driven into a home of my own."

NAACP MEMBERS

Other members of the Americus NAACP Committee present were Dr. R. S. Douthard, Rev. S. M. Holton, Ebenezer Baptist Church; Rev. J. Roy Moore, pastor of Campbell Chapel AME Church; and L. S. Stell, pastor of the Big Bethel Baptist Church.

Members of the women's Auxilary of the NAACP present were Mrs. Mary Blount, Mrs. Eva Hoskins, Mrs. R. H. Williams, Mrs. Mozelle Dawson, and Mrs. B. M. B. Simmons.

All visitors were then shown through the new five-room home by Mrs. Rushin. The white-painted structure is complete with an attractive living room suite and radio, handsome bedroom suite, barrack-style beds and accessories for the children, and well-appointed kitchen and frigidaire.

Atty. Walto ntold the assembly that the NAACP had not abandoned its effort to free Mrs. Ingram. He said "nothing shall be left undone to secure the freedom of this mother."

He cautioned that "patience not propaganda was needed in this case and that it would have to be resolved within the state."

Jessie Jordan

Constitution

Found Guilty

Wed. 9-14-49

Jessie Jordan, 37-year-old Negro who clubbed a guard to death in the City Stockade July 20, was found guilty of murder in DeKalb Circuit Court yesterday.

The Negro's attorneys filed a special plea of insanity Monday, but the jury ruled against it.

The jury deliberated only five minutes after an all-day trial on the murder charge yesterday. They returned a straight verdict of guilty without a recommendation of mercy which usually carries a death sentence.

Atlanta, Ga.

Jordan killed guard Jesse C. Haynes, 67, of 2251 Sutton St., S. E., using a shovel as a club.

Witnesses said Jordan knocked the guard down with the first blow and stood over him to pound his unconscious body 10 or 12 more times.

Jordan's attorneys, Oscar Mitchell and W. E. Zachary, said they would file a motion for a new trial.

13c 1949 Whites by whites(Kentucky)

Floyd Deputy Says Negro Companion Of Suspect In Girl's Killing Located

Courier Journal Tue. 8-2-49

13c

Boy Reported In Virginia

From Wire Dispatches.

Prestonsburg, Ky., Aug. 1.—Deputy Sheriff Harold Conn said today the Negro boy alleged to have ridden in an automobile with the accused killer of Muriel Baldridge before and after she was slain has been located.

The boy, Conn said he had learned, is somewhere in Virginia with a carnival, the Johnny Denton Shows. The deputy said he expected momentarily to get in touch with the boy.

Rode Around Mountains.

The Negro boy, according to 15-year-old Olen Collins, rode about the Eastern Kentucky mountains with William Gamble, 26, and Collins for several days before and after Gamble allegedly beat the girl to death the night of June 27.

Meanwhile, another day of extensive questioning failed to establish where Gamble was on the night the pretty 17-year-old high-school cheerleader was slain.

He was questioned today at his secret prison.

State Police Detective Arch Thompson said Gamble could not establish or give facts to prove where he was the night of the murder.

Can't Give Details.

Gamble said he had been in Tennessee, North and South Carolina June 25, 26, and 27, Thompson said, but he could not say what highways he had traveled, what towns he had visited, or who was with him.

The detective quoted Gamble as saying he was working with a carnival at the time, but he didn't know the name of the show.

Gamble was confronted yesterday for the first time with the 15-year-old boy who named him as the Baldridge girl's slayer. Sheriff Troy Sturgill of Floyd County said young Collins stated repeatedly in Gamble's presence that Gamble was the man who killed the girl.

Sturgill said he and other officers working on the case are convinced Collins is telling the truth.

Thompson added that in his work on the case, all the angles that he couldn't figure were explained by Collins.

"Every missing link has been filled in perfectly," the detective said. "I can see it perfectly."

He said Gamble has told "a dozen different stories."

"I offered him a $500 bill if he can name one witness who can prove where he was the night of June 27 at 10 p.m.," Thompson added.

That was the time Muriel was slain. Gamble has insisted he was not even in Prestonsburg at the time of the slaying.

Stories Don't Agree.

Thompson said Gamble at first said he had bought the car in which he was arrested at Abingdon, Va., on July 4. He first said he had bought it for $200, then $400, later for $550, and finally admitted stealing it, Thompson said.

The car later was identified in Abingdon by Williard Ray Howell, Dearborn, Mich., as his automobile. Howell said he had lent the car to his brother, Thomas, on June 20, and had not heard from him since.

The Collins boy was quoted as saying Gamble told him he threw a man's body in the river when he stole the car. Gamble has denied this also.

Thompson said questioning of Gamble would continue.

Landlord Is Arrested In Slaying

Courier Journal

Alcorn Man Held In Shotgun Death Of His Tenant

Wed. Aug. 3, 1949

By the Associated Press.

Greenup, Ky., Aug. 2.—Millard Wampler, a tenant farmer and father of nine children, was slain last night. His landlord is held on a murder charge.

Sheriff William Adkins said he filed the charge today after arresting 53-year-old Floyd Adams at his home at Alcorn, nine miles southwest of here. Adams had spent the night in the hills, the sheriff said.

A coroner's inquest conducted by Dr. H. H. Holbrook held that Wampler met death by shotgun wounds in the chest and back inflicted by Adams.

13c

Sheriff Relates Story.

Sheriff Adkins said the story of the case has been pieced together:

Adams spent much time away from his 180-acre farm to follow his mining business, and he allowed the Wampler family in his absence to occupy the main house on the farm.

Recently, Adams reclaimed the house, but Wampler refused to move. In a court suit a jury ruled that the tenant was entitled to spend several remaining months in the house to fill out a one-year period.

Adams and his wife and three children moved into the three-room tenant house less than 50 feet away.

Wife Hid Shotgun.

Last night, after Wampler had attended the Greenup stock sales, during which he had been drinking, the sheriff said, he tried to obtain his shotgun, but his wife hid it from him.

A little while later, as he moved toward Adams' house, two shots were fired through a window, and he collapsed and died on the porch of the main house.

Adams said he thought a hoe the 54-year-old Wampler was carrying was a gun.

The landlord will receive an examining trial tomorrow before County Judge G. W. Burchett.

13c 1949

Whites by Negroes (Kentucky)

All-Negro Jury Is Named To Try Frankfort Case

Courier-Journal

Member of Race Pleads Innocent to Charge Of Murdering White Man After Quarrel

By The Associated Press.

Frankfort, Ky., Sept. 12.—An all-Negro jury was selected here today to try a member of their race charged with murder of a white man.

13c Ky

The Negro, George Adams, was alleged to have shot and killed Ransom Maddox and wounded his brother, Mitchell Maddox, on a farm near here April 4.

Adams' counsel, Philip P. Ardery and Charles L. Hobson, protested to Circuit Judge W. B. Ardery that Negroes have been excluded from State court grand and trial juries here.

Jour. 9-13-49

White Panel Dismissed.

Judge Ardery, father of Philip Ardery, ruled that Adams' civil rights were not prejudiced by his indictment by an all-white jury. But he granted the demand that Negroes be included on the panel from which to select his 12 trial jurors.

Louisville Ky.

Dismissing for the time being the all-white jury panel, Judge Ardery instructed Sheriff Carl Webber to round up a number of qualified Negroes. "It will be all right if we have an all-colored jury," he commented.

The Commonwealth and defense finally chose nine men and three women of Adams' race to try him after he had pleaded innocent.

Death Not Demanded.

Witnesses testified the Maddox brothers went to a barn on a farm where Adams worked to talk to him about training a horse. They had a bottle of whisky, it was added, and gave some to Adams. A quarrel led to the shooting. Adams claimed self defense, asserting he fired after one of the brothers shot at him.

Commonwealth's Attorney James P. Hanrahan did not demand a death sentence.

Attorney Ardery said Negroes previously have been excluded from juries here by a system of selecting names from the list of white taxpayers.

The case is to go to the jury after arguments and Judge Ardery's charge to the jury tomorrow.

Whites by Negroes (Louisiana)

13c 1949

600 Whites Watch Brothers In Death

The Defender

OPELOUSAS, La. — A Roman holiday crowd witnessed the executions Friday of Joseph and Matthew Cook, brothers of Melville, La., for the alleged slaying of a retired white naval lieutenant and the criminal assault of his woman companion. Chicago Ill.

The brothers went to their deaths calmly as approximately 600 whites looked on. Sheriff Clayton Guilbeau said 300 saw Matthew Cook, who was 24 years old go to the chair at 12:04 p. m. The sheriff estimated that another 300 witnessed the death of Joseph Cook, 25, about 45 minutes later,

Sat. 5-28-49

13c 1949 Whites by Negroes (Maryland)

Police Frameup Claimed Against Negro Youth

Sun. 1-16-49

The Worker New York. N.Y. Sun. 1-16-49

FREETOWN.—Tom Edwards, the 23-year-old sugar refinery worker accused of slaying a Glen Burnie couple last September, goes on trial Jan. 17 in Baltimore's criminal court.

Against him will be an array of district attorneys from Baltimore and Anne Arundel counties and state and city police. With him are most of the white and Negro people of Freetown, Glen Burnie and Marley who have become convinced that the Negro youth has been framed by the police.

Churchgoers in the three communities, as well as American Sugar Refinery Co. employes with whom Edwards worked, have collected money for his defense.

Police say Edwards "confessed." Edwards told his mother that the police "told me what to say."

Police announced the "confession" after holding Edwards in jail for four days without giving him an opportunity to see a lawyer or any member of his family. (The Supreme Court recently gave a Washington, D. C. man his freedom because the police held him for 36 hours before a similar "confession" was announced.)

★

FOR A MONTH, before Edwards was arrested, the police terrorized all the Negro families living in the Freetown and Marley Neck area. Close to 100 men, and several teen-age boys, were dragged to jail for "questioning." School children were stopped to the roads by police and asked about their fathers.

Tom Edwards was arrested once before by police and released. He was rearrested a month later and held four days until police announced his "confession." After his father, James Edwards, a well-digger and iceman, saw his son he reported that "one of the cops had hit him."

Several days after the young sugar worfker was indicted by an Anne Arundel county grand jury, information that contradicted the "confesssion" reached the family. Several men and women told The Worker that they had seen Tom Edwards on the night of Sept. 17 when he is claimed to have slain Mary Kline and Jack Mahlen of Glein Burnie.

SHOOTING OF FARMER IS CHARGED TO NEGRO

W by Negro

Fatal Shotgun Blast Said Fired After Argument

TUNICA COUNTIANS SEARCH

Commercial Appeal

Special To The Commercial Appeal

Memphis Tenn

Sat 4-30-49

TUNICA, Miss., April 29. — A charge of murder and a $200 capture reward hangs over the head of a negro accused of shooting to death a white tenant farmer near here last Saturday, a spokesman for Tunica County Sheriff S. M. Hood said Friday.

Willie Howard, about 46, negro, is accused of killing Emmitt Aven Cook, 39, with a shotgun blast following a brief argument at the rear of the negro's home about 1:30 Saturday afternoon.

H. G. Brown, chief deputy sheriff, said the shooting followed a request by Mr. Cook to the negro to remove some brush which the latter had piled on Cook's farm, which is on the S. A. Arnold and Son Plantation.

13c

Angered At Request

Apparently angered at the request, the negro went into his house, got a shotgun and shot Mr. Cook once in the right side of the chest, the deputy said. Later he beat Cook's head with the barrel of the gun, said Mr. Brown.

Deputy Brown related that Cook's wife, Mrs. Mary Barnes Cook, later shot at the negro, and that the negro in turn shot at some of the Cook children. Mr. Cook was planting cotton at the time of his death.

All leads as to where the negro might be hiding have been checked, officers said. Mr. Brown said a team of bloodhounds from Mississippi State Prison at Parchman were called, that they traced the negro through a woods, but lost the scent on a gravel road.

Search Is Continuing

The search is continuing, said the deputy. The $200 reward for capture or information leading to the capture of Howard represents $100 from the sheriff's office here and $100 posted by the state, he added.

13c

Deputy Brown said he knew of no previous trouble between Howard and Mr. Cook.

Scene of the killing was about 13 miles from Tunica, and three miles west of Sarah, Miss.

Mr. Cook leaves, in addition to his wife, three sons, Doyle, Sidney and Emmitt Jr. Cook; a daughter, Patricia Cook, and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Cook, all of the Dubbs community; two brothers, George and Les Cook of Dubbs; three sisters, Mrs. Mary Bell Chambers of Tunica, Mrs. Florence Rayburn of Greenville, Miss., and Miss Daisy Cook of Dubbs.

MAN ESCAPES BLOODHOUND POSSE; CAPTURED LATER

CLARKSDALE, Miss. — (ANP) — Accused of slaying C. W. Broughton, 38, white, manager of a plantation, William Bell, was tracked down after eluding a bloodhound posse in the swamps last week. Police said Bell admitted the killing, signed a waiver and was removed to an undisclosed Mississippi jail.

Sat. 1-8-49

Father And Son Held As Slaying Suspects

LAUREL, Miss. — A 40-year old Negro man and his 15-year old son are held at Laurel Monday night in connection with the slaying of Forest C. Sims, 54-year old Laurel cattle dealer.

Daily World Tue. 7-19-49

Police Chief C. Wayne Valentine said K. C. Newell, a Jasper county Negro, is being held as the killer of Sims, and his son is charged with helping the father move Sim's body.

DIVORCEE SLAIN, MAN IS CHARGED

Times-Picayune

Plantation Hand Admits Slaying, Sheriff Says

Wed. 10-26-49

(The Associated Press)

Greenville, Miss., Oct. 25—A plantation Negro was charged Tuesday with slaying a 26-year-old white divorcee. Sheriff Hugh Foote said the man told him he killed the woman because "I got the notion."

New Orleans, La.

Foote identified the prisoner as Robert Sanders, about 25, and said the Negro was held in an undisclosed jail as a routine precaution.

13c Miss

The nearly decapitated body of Mrs. Irma Franklin was found Monday on the wooded bank of Sunflower river, 100 yards from the plantation house of J. D. Cade.

Whites by negro

Sheriff Foote said the head was attached to the body by a narrow strip of flesh "about as wide as my three fingers."

Both Mrs. Franklin and Sanders worked for Cade.

A five-inch blade of a three-bladed pocketknife was the death weapon, Foote said.

Sanders was arrested by sheriff's deputies Murray Etheridge and Ed Campbell after bloodhounds from a nearby state prison farm tracked him down.

Mrs. Franklin had been staying at the house while plantation owner Cade took Mrs. Cade to the doctor. The rear steps of the house and the area where the body was found showed signs of a violent struggle, the sheriff said.

Jim Franklin, the dead woman's former husband, was released Tuesday afternoon, Foote said. Franklin had been arrested for questioning at Noxapater, Miss., Monday afternoon.

The time of the killing was placed at noon Monday.

Miss. Frees Slayer Of White Man

Sat. 11-26-49

JACKSON, Miss.—William Bell, 25, escaped the death sentence last week when State Supreme Court reversed the Coahoma county courts decision and freed Bell.

Associate Justice L. A. Smith, who wrote the controlling opinion which released the man convicted of the murder of white plantation manager G. L. Broughton near Clarksdale, held that the Bell acted in self defense.

Army Veteran Bell, a tenant on the Broughton managed plantation since Bell's discharge in 1945, testified that Broughton had threatened him with "whipping and Death" several times.

Bell stated that on the day of the slaying, he had taken refuge in a house after hiding several days from Broughton.

Broughton broke into the house on December 23, 1948, Bell said, and knowing the white man carried a pistol, he shot him in self defense.

Justice Smith's opinion states, "appellant was entitled to have the direct verdict for which he had asked: and to acquittal on the ground of defense."

CHICAGO DEFENDER
Sat. 11-26-49

Ailing Witness in Delta Murder Trial Being Treated at Undisclosed Place

Times Picayune
New Orleans La.

(The Associated Press)

Greenvill, Miss., Jan. 20.—Beatrice Smith, ailing witness in the once-postponed trial of Mrs. Ruth Dickins on charges of slaying her mother, is being treated for her nervous breakdown at an undisclosed place, Sheriff Hugh Foote reported today. Fri. 1-21-49

Sheriff Foote said that Mrs. Dickins' husband had told him their Negro cook had been moved but that she would be available for Mrs. Dickins' trial during the June term of Washington county circuit court. New Orleans La.

Circuit Court Judge Arthur ordan granted a continuance of the tria llast Monday after Mrs. Dickins' attorney revealed hat the Smith woman was critically ill and could not appear. His statement was supported by Dr. J. S. Sanders who was attending her.

The attorney, Ben Wilkes, described the cook as the only person by whom Mrs. Dickins could prove her innocence.

Mrs. Dickins was indicted by a Washington county grand jury after her mother, Mrs. Idella Long Thompson, 69, was found dead in the bathroom of her Leland home. Sheriff Foote identified a pair of pruning shears as the murder weapon. Mrs. Dickins told the sheriff that she had surprised a Negro in her mother's home shortly before discovering the body. Fri. 1-21-49

JURY SELECTION WILL BEGIN TODAY

13c

Deltan to Face Trial for Murder of Mother

Times-Picayune

By JAMES MCLEAN
(The Associated Press)

Greenville, Miss., June 20—Blue-eyed, bobbed-haired Mrs. John Dickins, 43, member of a proud, influential Delta family, goes on trial for her life in this cotton capital Tuesday. New Orleans, La.

The socialite wife of a cotton broker and mother of two girls, is charged with the garden shears murder of her mother, Mrs. Idella Long Thompson. Tue. 6-21-49

District Attorney Stanny Sanders said Monday the trial may be dragged out more than a week if a scrap develops over jury selections.

But a regular panel of 36 and a special venier of 170 has been called. And if that's not enough, Sheriff Hugh Foote will be ordered to draft more.

However, defense attorney Ben Wilkes indicated he expected no squabbling over a jury.

"All we want is a bunch of fair, qualified men," he said.

About 25 witnesses have been summoned by the state, none for the defense so far. 6-21-49

The frail, 69-year-old victim of the brutal killer was the widow of a Mississippi levee board president and plantation owner. The family has wealthy relatives.

Mrs. Dickins, who resided three doors away from her mother in nearby Leland, sharply denies the slaying. She insists it was a Negro intruder she surprised as she entered her mother's back door.

Mrs. Thompson's body with multiple head gashes was found sprawled in blood on the bathroom floor of her home on Leland's most fashionable drive the afternoon of Nov. 17. The smart, white bungalow with precise landscaping fronts Deer creek which is lined with stylish homes.

The state will not demand the death penalty, District Attorney Sanders and County Attorney Williard McIlwain said.

Possible Verdicts

It's up to the jury under Mississippi law. Jurors will have five possible verdicts, the attorneys added, one for acquittal and four for conviction. 6-21-49

A mandatory death sentence to the electric chair, is called for if the jury reports "guilty as charged," McIlwain said. The jury also can convict with "guilty with life imprisonment," or "guilty, but we disagree as to punishment." The judge must give a life term in that event.

The final alternative is an instruction to the jury to consider the case as manslaughter, McIlwain added, which carries a maximum penalty of 20 years and $500 fine.

Woman Who Said 'Negro Did It' Named Murderer

Atlanta Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

13c

Indictment Results From Long Drawn Out Probe Of Miss. Case

Thurs. 1-20-49

BY JAMES B. LaFOURCHE

GREENVILLE, Miss. — (ANP) — A white woman, Mrs. Ruth Thompson Dickens, 42, has been indicted here by the Washington County grand jury for the murder of her 69-year old mother on November 17 last year. The accused had named an unidentified Negro as the slayer.

On the afternoon of the murder, the accused notified her uncle, a physician, and her sister of what had happened. All rushed to the scene of the crime where they found a 88-pound frail form with more than a 100 wounds about the face and body. Beside the body was found a pair of pruning clippers, said to belong to Mrs. Dickens. She had left them at her mother's house earlier during the day. Thurs. 1-20-49

Mrs. Dickens according to reports was covered with blood and had two small cuts on her head. Both wrists and ankles were badly bruised and scratched, reports stated.

The accused said that she had been to town to get some medicine for her mother, and that on returning through the back door, the front being locked she found her mother's body lying dead on the floor.

SAW "A NEGRO" 1-20-49

"Standing behind the door," the accused said, she observed "a slight dark Negro," who she said struck her twice on the head and ran out of the back as she slipped to the floor. Mrs. Dickens said that she had never before seen the man, neither could she identify him.

Police say that they had never been furnished with a satisfactory description of the alleged slayer to clear up the case.

Fearing habeas corpus proceedings, the accused was released on $10,000 bail. The district attorney engineered this move to prevent dis closing the evidence in its possession which led to the grand jury indictment. 1-20-49

Following the slaying, all possible evidence that might have clinched an indictment at the time of the finding of the body, had been desttoyed. The clothing worn by Mrs. Dickens had been put to soak, the bathroom floor scrubbed (with the sheriff's permission) the victims clothes burned at the funeral home and finger prints had not been taken off the victim until shortly before burial.

An unexpected lie detector test held in the sheriff's office on November 24 showed a "negative" result.

Shortly after the cry of "brutal attack by a Negro" had been circulated an angry mob formed and the Greenville police, aided by state highway patrolmen were rushed to Leland Bloodhounds from the Parchman penitentiary were sent and at midnight they were taken to the scene of th slaying.

Th hounds picked up no scent and never left the scene of the brutal murder. 1-20-49

Police, however, were busy collecting what evidence they could find. Finger prints, bits of hair found in the murdered woman's hands and bloodstained clothing, all of which were sent to the FBI laboratories. The tufts of hair which the police say they found in the hands of the dead woman were not Negroid.

Mrs. Dickens was slated for trial January 17.

STATE HINTS MOTIVE IT WILL TRY TO SHOW IN MRS. DICKINS TRIAL

The Appeal
Memphis, Tenn.
Thu. 6-23-49

Calling Of Bankers Indicates Effort To Prove Fight Over Finances

Thu. 6-23-49

13c

4 MORE JURORS NAMED

Negroes Are Summoned For The First Time In County's Criminal Case History—All Are Excused

By BOB MARKS
Staff Correspondent

GREENVILLE, Miss., June 22—Only one juror was lacking in the Dickins murder trial at court's close Wednesday afternoon, and attorneys for both sides were confident testimony will start by mid-morning Thursday.

The monotony of the day-long grind in selecting jurors was made doubly arduous by the baked atmosphere of the courtroom. However, the hearing brought two developments considered illuminating as to the state's proposed line of prosecution.

More Witnesses Called

Six additional witnesses subpenaed Wednesday by the state included three bankers and a woman in the loan business, and two Federal Bureau of Investigation special agents. The state had previously summoned 21 others.

The quartet of banking and loan witnesses presumably will be used in an effort to establish a motive in the slaying. Mrs. John Dickins, 43, Leland matron and social leader, is charged with beating to death her mother, Mrs. Idella Long Thompson, 69. Thu. 6-23-49

It is strongly indicated the state will try to prove Mrs. Dickins was in extreme financial straits.

The four new jurors accepted Wednesday, bringing the total to 11, were: W. L. Byrd of Greenville, mechanical foreman, United States Engineers; W. W. Webb of Greenville, United States Gypsum Co.; S. Oltremari, Greenville insurance man, and L. E. Bonner, Greenville packing house supply salesman.

Mrs. Thompson was murdered with a pair of pruning shears in the bathroom of her home on Deer Creek Drive at Leland last Nov. 17. The state charges the crime was committed by Mrs. Dickins, and it is expected to attempt to prove Mrs. Thompson and her daughter became involved in an explosive argument and that Mrs. Dickins struck down her mother with the shears.

Claims Negro Did It

Mrs. Dickins said her mother was murdered by a young negro, who attacked her with the shears as she entered her mother's home and discovered the aged woman's bleeding body on the bathroom floor. She tore the shears from the negro and he fled, she said. Bloodhounds were brought to the scene from the Parchman Prison Farm, but no trail was picked up and no negro fitting Mrs. Dickins' description has even been arrested.

An authoritative source said Wednesday that Mrs. Dickins and her defense attorneys, Ben Wilkes and his nephew, B. B. Wilkes, had anticipated the state's supposed motive of financial difficulties. He said Mrs. Dickins is operating an 1800-acre plantation east of Leland, owned jointly with her husband. Mrs. Dickins was willed an extensive interest in the plantation by her late father, J. W. Thompson, prominent and wealthy planter, he said. The remaining interest in the acreage later was purchased by Mr. Dickins from other members of the family who shared in the father's will, according to the informant.

Mrs. Dickins has long been accustomed to borrowing money to finance her seasonal crop making, he said, and in previous years had also borrowed to finance real estate interests.

Agents To Testify

The FBI agents, it is believed, will testify to the findings of the bureau's laboratory relative to exhibit submitted by Sheriff Hugh Foote of Washington County. Some days after the crime, Sheriff Foote reportedly submitted for FBI analysis blooded-soaked clothing worn by Mrs. Dickins the day of the murder, two broken finger nails found in the bathroom, strands of hair supposedly found clutched in Mrs. Thompson's lifeless hand, the pruning shears, bloodstains, fingerprints and the blood-stained bathroom door.

The summoning of A. E. Crawford of Jackson, as a state witness by Stanny Sanders, district attorney, and Willard McIlwain, county, attorney, is expected to bring out in concrete form various phases of his investiagtion of the murder. Mr. Crawford was employed by the Dickins and Thompson families as a special investigator.

Tad 90 Days To Live

If he is put on the witness stand by Mr. Sanders, it is believed his testimony under cross-examination by Ben Wilkes will disclose the serious condition of Mrs. Thompson's health at the time of her slaying.

"In-the-know" sources insist that Mr. Crawford's report of his investigation includes a statement by physicians attending Mrs. Thompson that she was given only 90 days to live prior to her murder. Thu. 6-23-49

This information had been conveyed to Mrs. Dickins and other members of her family, it is said. This, of course, should it develop, would be strongly stressed by Mr. Wilkes as a positive indication that Mrs. Dickins would have had no financial motive for slaying her mother. If, as the state is expected to insist, inherited money had been her motive for murder, the same result would have accrued to her by natural death in some 90 days.

An unusual—in fact, rare—feature of jury selection Wednesday was the calling of some six negroes as prospective jurors. For the first time in Washington County criminal trial history, negroes were seated tentatively in a jury box, according to Judge Arthur Jordan.

One negro on the special venire was excused because he did not believe in capital punishment. Four others failed acceptance as jurors—one because he would refuse to return a murder verdict against a white woman. The other three were seated in the jury box. The state used one of its peremptory challenges, and the defense one challenge, to excuse two negroes. The third was excused for cause when he stated he would not vote a death sentence on circumstantial evidence.

Summoned By State

The 21 state's witnesses summoned besides the bankers and FBI agents:

Mrs. Pauline Mason of the Witte Clinic, Drs. K. L. and W. S. Witte, Miss Myrtle Dyess; Leland telephone operator; J. W. Thompson, brother of Mrs. Dickins; Ed Blue, special investigator for the Mississippi State Highway Patrol; A. E. Crawford, special investigator of Jackson, employed by the Dickins and Thompson families.

Beatrice Smith, negro cook for Mrs. Dickins, who washed her blood-stained clothes; F. P. Aldridge, Leland police chief; Bob Gookin, commercial photographer; Edgar E[illegible]lard and Olin Capp, from Parchman Prison Farm, who were in charge of the bloodhounds brought to the murder scene, and Martha Pruitt, Mrs. Thompson's negro cook.

The following friends of the families:

Mrs. Ben Walker Jr., Miss Mary A. Milom, Mrs. Bruce Milom, Mrs. C. O. Dean, Mrs. Paul Azlin, Mrs. W. A. Stanton, Mrs. John Aldridge, and W. J. Boone Jr.

For The Defense

The witnesses subpenaed by Mr. Wilkes for Mrs. Dickens were:

John A. Stovall, head of the Greenville Funeral Home which conducted Mrs. Thompson's funeral. Mrs. Thompson's clothes worn when she was murdered were burned at the funeral parlors, but only after the sheriff's office had been notified the clothes were available, according to Mr. Stovall. When police failed to pick up the garments after two days, they were burned because of the odor, Mr. Stovall said. Thu. 6-23-49

Dr. John Archer of Greenville, Mrs. Thompson's physician for many years, who is presumed to testify to her failing health. Dr. Archer did not treat Mrs. Thompson in her last illness just prior to the murder.

Mrs. Gregory, a nurse at the Witte Clinic at Leland; Mrs. W. J. Boone Sr., who gave Mrs. Thompson treatments at her home; Goodloe Love, next door neighbor of Mrs. Thompson on Deer Creek Drive at Leland; Martha Pruitt; Mrs. Tommy Gorman, employed at the Witte Clinic, and Billy Boone, funeral home employe.

MRS. THOMPSON'S DEATH DESCRIBED

The Picayune

New Orleans La.

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Dead an Hour When He Was Called, Physician Says

Fri. 6-24-49

By ELLEN MIDDLEBROOK
(The Times-Picayune Staff Correspondent)

Greenville, Miss., June 23 — Through testimony concerning rigor mortis, Dr. K. L. Witte, Leland, Miss. physician and brother-in-law of Mrs. Idella Long Thompson, added a bizarre and vital note to the murder trial here Thursday of Mrs. John Dickins.

Mrs. Dickins, 43, is charged with hacking to death her 69-year-old mother, Mrs. Thompson, in the latter's fashionable home in Leland last November 14.

The defendent, who claims she found her mother dying in the blood-spattered bathroom of Mrs. Thompson's home, had told Washington county authorities and Greenville and Leland police that she had notified Dr. Witte by telephone immediately after she discovered the tragedy. Fri. 6-24-49

Mrs .Dickins contends that she surprised a Negro of medium height in the act of hacking her mother. She said her mother gasped and died almost instantly.

Dr. Witte, called to the witness stand by the prosecution, testified that he arrived at the Thompson home within five minutes after receiving Mrs. Dickins' telephone call, and found that Mrs. Thompson had been dead a "minimum of one hour."

A bookkeeper and secretary at Dr. Witte's clinic in Leland, Mrs. Pauline Mason, had told the jury earlier that she had answered the phone when Mrs. Dickins called twice between 3 and 3:30 p. m. on the fatal ady. She said she recognized Mrs. Dickins' voice. She said Mrs. Dickins first asked for Dr. Bunt Witte, son of Dr. K. L. Witte, but was told that he was operating, so Mrs. Dickins hung up.

The judge and attorneys, a battery of newspapermen and about 400 curious spectators waited patiently until Mrs. Dickins and her husband arrived at the courthouse and took their places between defense attorney Ben Wilkes and his assistant, B. B. Wilkes.

First called to the witness stand by the 30-year-old district attorney, Stanny Sanders, was Walter Parsons Jr., Greenville civil engineer, who had sketched the floor plan of the fashionable 11-room Leland home of Mrs. Thompson.

The first hour was consumed with the reading of a statement Mrs. Dickins made two days after the tragedy to Washington county sheriff Hugh Foote and other law enforcement officials.

In the statement, Mrs. Dickins said that on the afternoon of Nov. 17 she returned from her home where she had gone on an errand for her mother, entered her mother's home by the back door, saw blood on the back porch and found her dying, blood-spattered mother on the floor of a rear bathroom.

As she entered the bathroom, the statement said, "some one swung at me and I think I ducked and he lammed at me and I commenced wrestling with him."

Mrs. Dickins said she grabbed the murder weapon, a pair of pruning shears, from the hands of "a dark Negro wearing dark clothes and no taller than I am.

"After a scuffle of only a minute or two, the asailant fled," the statement said.

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"What was in my mind was to get this thing out of his hand so he could not kill me and I slipped, or he hit me and I fell face forward," the statement continued.

"I would hate to have the responsibility, but I am sure it was a Negro and I don't believe it was a yellow Negro.

Mrs. Dickins said she then phoned Dr. Witte. Later, she said, she went to her home and changed clothes and told her maid to take them out in the garage so her children wouldn't see them.

Chief of police Aldridge testified that he was the first police officer to enter the murder house and that he found Mrs. Dickins sitting in a back bedroom.

"She looked like she had been in an awful scrape. Her hair was all down in her face, like this, and her hands were bloody —blood covered the front of her dress," he said. Picayune

Sanders asked Aldridge if the bathroom floor was covered with blood. He said it was.

"And where did you find the pruning shears?" asked Sanders.

"On the floor near a pool of blood," said Aldridge.

"And did you see any blood on the shears?" the prosecutor asked.

"No," Aldridge said.

Later, under examination by defense attorney Wilkes, Aldridge said he could not say positively that there was absolutely no blood on the shears.

Dr. Witte told the jury he went immediately to his sister-in-law's home after receiving the call from Mrs. Dickins. He said he thought Mrs. Thompson had suffered a stroke and that he was going to her on a medical mission—not to see Mrs. Dickins.

Since three bank presidents and one executive of a loan company were summoned as state witnesses, some quarters believe the prosecution plans to establish the motive as the fact that Mrs. Dickins needed money.

In her statement, Mrs. Dickens said her mother regularly received several checks a month through the mail. Before the testimony opened Thursday, Mrs. Dickins said she had "no idea" what the prosecution would name as a motive.

Selection of R. A. Worthington, Greenville lumberman and brother of the foreman of the grand jury which indicted Mrs. Dickins, completed the 12-man jury at 10:13 a. m. after more than two day's steady examination.

Although the drab courtroom was emptied of judge, jury and attorneys during a three-hour recess following swearing in of the jury, nearly 200 spectators remained in their seats, sending out for sandwiches and relying upon the soft-drink machine in the hallway. Fri. 6-24-49

A Negro peanut vender who appeared at noon was quickly relieved of his wares by hungry men and women determined to be on hand when the prosecuting attorney went into action at 1:30 p. m.

The jury is composed of three farmers, a retired farmer, two lumbermen, three employes of the United States Gypsum Company here, an insurance man, a salesman and an employe of the United States engineers.

After Judge Jordan recessed court, the weary Mrs. Dickins and her husband, a large man with sparse blond hair, remained almost an hour to chat casually with reporters.

Then they went to their fashionable home in nearby Leland to eat lunch and rest.

"We've had 20 years of very happy married life," said Dickins, "but when we celebrated our 20th anniversary Jan. 24, we wished we'd been in China. These people rae a bunch of fools to think my wife would do a thing like this. It's the craziest thing I ever heard of." New Orleans, La.

Mrs. Dickins was indicted early in January. Fri. 6-24-49

How does a woman on trial for her life, who daily commutes almost nine miles to court, keep her home and family going?

"My oldestd daughter, who is 14, is at camp on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, but my baby, 10, is at home," said Mrs. Dickins.

"My husband gets up early, sometimes at 5:30 a. m and we have breakfast and get here just before court opens at 9 o'clock. My baby went out to the country today with some friends. My friends have been very nice like that.

"It's a wearing job to come to court like this. I'm glad the jury is chosen and that the thing is ready to start. I want to get it over with, one way or another, and get back to my children."

Two Officers Killed By Negro Prisoner

ST. LOUIS, Oct. 15—(AP)—A Negro prisoner disarmed and fatally shot two policemen at police headquarters in suburban Overland late Friday night.

The prisoner escaped, but was captured about 7 a.m. Saturday after an all-night search in which scores of policemen took part. He offered no resistance when he was taken into custody at a house in St. Louis.

Police Chief Brown Hairgrove of Overland identified the Negro as John D. Johnson, 26.

Victims of the shooting were Sgt. Pelham C. Scott, 48, and Patrolman Edward C. Juettemeyer, 30. Scott died en route to a hospital. Juettemeyer died about two hours later. The shootings occurred at 12:15 a.m.

Police said Johnson grabbed Scott's revolver from its holster, ran outside after a police clerk scuffled with him, and emptied the weapon at Juettemeyer. The patrolman fell, mortally wounded, and Johnson took his gun and shot

10-17-49

with Police Clerk Otto Albrecht, and started outside the building.

Killer Fires Point Blank

Juettemeyer and another officer were coming toward the entrance and Johnson fired point blank at Juettemeyer, who collapsed on the station lawn.

The Negro then took a revolver from the wounded officer and emptied it at the unarmed Scott, who had come outside. The sergeant sprawled dead on the lawn. Juettemeyer died two hours later.

Johnson and a brother-in-law had been brought to the station for booking on a car theft charge.

10-16-49

[Associated Press Wirephoto]

John D. Johnson, 26, identified by police as prisoner who killed two policemen in Overland, Mo., suburb of St. Louis.

Kills 2 Cops; He's Proud of Shooting Skill

St. Louis, Oct. 15 (AP)—Two policemen were disarmed and killed last night by a former convict who boasted he is "a better shot than any cop."

The officers were shot down at police headquarters in suburban Overland about 11:15 p. m. [Chicago time] and their assailant escaped.

He was captured at a home in St. Louis seven hours later.

Authorities identified him as John Louis Johnson, 29, a Negro who had served two reformatory terms for theft. Johnson was booked on suspicion of murder.

Better Shot Than Cops

While under questioning there, he told police in the presence of newsmen: "I shot because I was just scared. I knew I was a better shot than any cop."

10-16-49

Victims of the shooting were Sgt. Pelham C. Scott, 46, a policeman for 20 years, and Special Patrolman Edward C. Juettemeyer, 30.

Authorities reported Johnson grabbed Scott's service revolver from its holster while the sergeant was making a telephone call, scuffled

The Trenton Case Cries Out for Correction

The Courier Journal
Louisville, Ky.
Tues. 5-17-49

(13c)

AN EXTRAORDINARILY sordid series of events in Trenton, N. J., has written a record that discredits the police and court processes of that city. It goes farther than that, however, to involve the lives of six men, and to lend substance to shrill Communist cries that legalized lynching is the "government's answer to the American Negro's striving for freedom and dignity."

It began one day in January last year when three Negroes entered the second-hand shop of an old man named **William Horner**. One of the men clouted his woman clerk on the head, knocking her unconscious. Another hit old **William Horner** on the head with a pop bottle and left him dead. A neighbor said she saw three Negroes leave the shop in a hurry and drive away in a four-door, blue-green Plymouth. Louisville, Ky

Eight days later a Negro man complained to police that his son was using the family car without permission. The son was a 23-year-old war veteran with malaria and a rheumatic heart. His name is **Collis English**. Police picked him up in the early evening. He did not come home that night so his brother-in-law, **McKinley Forrest**, when to the police station to attend **Collis English**'s hearing in traffic court. Tues. 5-17-49

McKinley Forrest was arrested too. The next development was the arrest of **John McKenzie**, **Forrest**'s nephew. Meanwhile police had arrested three other men, named **Ralph Cooper**, **Horace Wilson** and **James Thorp**.

(It should be pointed out that before old **William Horner** had been killed, a Trenton newspaper had called the city police to account for lax law enforcement, and that thereafter a bandit squad had been organized and ordered to "shoot to kill.")

Tues. 5-17-49

Hour after hour, day and night, the six men were questioned. The implication of intimidation, exhaustion and confusion is plain. After four days and five nights of this, police announced five of the six men had signed confessions. It is incidental information that only one of them could read and write. The others might "sign" with a cross, of course, without knowing what they were signing, or after the long ordeal of questioning, they might not care.

At any rate, the six went to trial. The woman clerk in old man **Horner**'s store said three men were involved, but six were tried. The neighbor said three Negroes went off in a blue-green four-door Plymouth. And **English**, who was arrested, police said, after he had been seen driving the murder car, had his hands on the wheel of nothing but his father's two-door black Ford sedan. Tues. 5-17-49

It must have been a most peculiar trial. Each of the six defendants had what seems an airtight alibi. There were three too many defendants. The woman clerk's identification of the defendants seems almost certainly to have been coached by police. The prosecution refused to give the court-appointed defense attorney access to results of fingerprint examination of the pop bottle which killed **Horner**.

On the basis of the five "confessions," which the defendants repudiated, the New Jersey jury found them all guilty. The judge added that they were guilty of first degree murder (a specification which should have been the jury's), and sentenced them to death.

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New York newspapers virtually neglected the case. And it was not until **Don Hollenbeck**, of the Columbia Broadcasting System, called attention to their silence, and to the outrageous character of the whole case that it began receiving national attention. The Civil Rights Congress, one of those listed as subversive by the Department of Justice, leaped into the affair with a Communist-line appeal to prejudice. Indeed, whatever the feelings of the "Congress" about the defendants, it hurt their chances for justice. As **Bruce Bliven** points out in *The New Republic*, many Americans feel that "nobody else should soil his hands by interfering in a case the Communists have taken up, and on the same side."

Tues. 5-17-49

The New Jersey C.I.O., however, has taken an intelligent and fair position in the defendants' interest. It cannot "join in the hysterical appeal" made by "organizations listed as subversive by the Department of Justice." And in taking its stand on the case, it said, it is "not going to follow the Communist Party line and exploit Negroes for political purposes."

The New Jersey Supreme Court has an opportunity to reassert the right of the defendants to justice. If it fails, the United States Supreme Court will have the same opportunity. There is no doubt that an outrage has been committed in the Trenton court and the mere fact that Communists cry out against it is no reason not to right it. Tues. 5-17-49

NAACP Attorneys File Brief for Six Trenton Men Convicted of Murder

(13c) Wayn

The Bystander, Des Moines, Iowa,

5-31-49. Thu.

Trenton, N. J.—Supporting the appeal of six young Negro men from a conviction of murder in a lower court here, attorneys for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People today filed a brief amicus curiae with the Supreme Court of New Jersey. Reversal of the lower court conviction is asked.

The defendants were convicted on August 6, 1948, in Mercer County Court, charged with the murder of William Horner, a white second hand furniture dealer, on January 27, 1948. Thu. 5-31-49

Under Duress

The brief, submitted by Herbert H. Tate of Newark and Thurgood Marshall and Mrs. Marian Wynn Perry of NAACP's national legal staff, cites precedents established by U.S. Supreme Court decisions setting aside convictions based upon confessions obtained under duress during illegal detention and secret questioning by police.

The confessions introduced into the trials, the brief alleges, were obtained from five of the six defendants who were arrested without warrants and questioned almost continuously for more than four days by many officers. Moreover, the brief continues, they were not arraigned until after the confessions were secured nor advised of their constitutional rights and their privilege to remain silent. These procedures, according to the brief, violated the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution.

The Bystander
Des Moines, Iowa.

Against Evidence

The brief further argues that the verdict of guilty was against the weight of evidence. It points out that the only identification of any of the defendants was made by a woman who was unable to identify the defendants face to face but who later claimed to have recognized them from photographs furnished by the police.

"That any person should lose his life in the electric chair by such flimsy evidence would strike a blow at the roots of justice," the brief concludes. "That six Negroes should die when only the most questionable identification connecting them with the crimes has been made of three intensifies the injustice and heightens the danger to justice."

Under Death Sentence For Murder-Robbery

[illegible]

TRENTON, N. J. — (SNS) — Six persons sentenced to die for slaying an aged white storekeeper Friday had won their fight for a new trial.

The New Jersey Supreme Court unanimously reversed a Mercer County Court murder conviction, thus halting a scheduled mass execution of the six prisoners. Retrial was ordered.

"The high court held that the trial judge had erred in his handling of the case which defense attorneys have charged was a "Northern Scottsboro case."

Jun. 7-8-49

MURDER CONVICTION

Six men were convicted of bludgeoning to death William Horner, 72, in his second-hand furniture shop January 27, 1948, during a $35 robbery.

Their conviction last August resulted in a series of protest meetings throughout the nation and abroad and led to the appeal to the Supreme Court. The appeal was spearheaded by the Civil Rights Congress, which dubbed the convicted men "The Trenton Six."

The State's highest tribunal's main opinion held that Trial Judge Charles P. Hutchinson had erred in pronouncing the death sentence because the jury verdict was "guilty" rather than "guilty" in the first degree."

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Jersey NAACP Votes to Help 6 Trenton Negroes

Tue. 1-11-49

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Daily Worker, New York. N.Y. Tue. 1-11-49

TRENTON, N. J., Jan. 10.—The New Jersey Conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, held here Sunday afternoon, voted to cooperate in the defense of the six Negroes railroaded to the death house here in the Horner murder case. A request was sent to the national office of the NAACP to throw its support to the case.

The step was taken after the conference, with Rev. E. S. Hardge presiding, had heard a report on the case by Robert Queen, one of the attorneys who defended the six men last summer. Queen told the gathering that there was evidence of Negroes having been kept off the jury. He was followed by Mrs. Bessie English Mitchell, sister of 23-year-old Collis English, one of the condemned men. Daily Worker

VOTE UNANIMOUS Tue. 1-11-49

All branches of the NAACP in New Jersey were represented at the meeting, and the vote to support the defense of the six Negroes was unanimous. New York

Following the conviction and sentencing of the six men last August, the Civil Rights Congress conducted an independent investigation and laid plans for a campaign to free them. This investigation, and those of independent newspapermen, revealed such violations of the defendants' rights and indications of frame-up as to warrant a demand for prosecution of the officials involved. The CRC later organized a State Committee to Save the Trenton Six. It is assumed that Sunday's move by the Jersey NAACP conference is an overture for cooperation with that committee. N.Y. N.Y.

Besides English, the other five men in the death house are McKinley Forrest, 35; Horace Wilson, 37; Ralph Cooper, 24; James Thorpe, 24. and John MacKenzie, 23. All men were residents of Trenton, and were arrested in a police round-up last February following the slaying on Jan. 27, 1948, of William Horner, a 73-year-old Trenton furniture dealer. The six dark-complexioned Negroes were convicted despite the fact that witnesses testified that there were only two men—light-complexioned—implicated.

The case has been appealed, and attorneys are preparing briefs to present to the next session of the State Supreme Court. In addition, the CRC has called for protests to Governor Alfred E. Driscoll, of New Jersey, demanding freedom for the six and an investigation of the Trenton police and the Mercer County prosecutor's office.

Rights Unit Aids Doomed N. J. Negroes

(13c) W

New York Star

By Gerald Blank

Six Trenton, N. J. Negroes, convicted last August 26 of a murder to which they claim innocence, will have their case appealed by a leading civil liberties lawyer, it was announced yesterday by William L. Patterson, national executive secretary of the Civil Rights Congress. Identity of the attorney will be revealed at an early date, he said. Wed.-1-19-49

New York New York

The six were convicted of beating William Horner to death last Jan. 27. Patterson described the convictions as "one of the most sordid, cold-blooded, fascist-like attacks upon the Negro people ever witnessed in America."

The appeal, before the New Jersey Supreme Court, is scheduled for Feb. 1, but an adjournment will be asked in order to permit the new counsel to prepare his case.

Relative Led Fight

This glimmer of hope for the convicted men is the culmination of an almost single-handed fight in their behalf by Mrs. Bessie Mitchell of 129 W. 128th St. Mrs. Mitchell is a sister of Collis English, 22; a sister-in-law of McKinlev Forest, 27; and an aunt of John McKenzie, 24, three of the six convicted men.

Horner, 75, and his common-law wife, Elizabeth Maguire, were attacked in their furniture store, 213 N. Broad St., Trenton, on the morning of Jan. 27, 1948, and severely beaten. Horner died without regaining consciousness. His wife told reporters, at the time, that three—not six—men had beat them.

Evidence Conflicting

Another witness, Frank Eldracher, cigar salesman, reported seeing two light complexion teenage Negroes on the scene. (Of the six men now in the deathhouse, only one, James Thorpe, 20, has a light complexion, and he has one arm. No witness mentioned a one-armed man.)

On Feb. 6, police came to 247 Church St., Trenton, and arrested Collis English, a Navy vet suffering from malaria and a heart ailment. The arrest was made, English testified, on complaint of his stepfather for having used the family car—a two-door black Ford sedan—without permission. Eyewitnesses of the crime described the getaway car as a green Plymouth four-door sedan.

Five Confessions Claimed

On Feb. 7, McKinley Forest, who also lives at 247 Church St., says he went to the police station to find out what had happened to English and was arrested.

On Feb. 8, Ralph Cooper, 27; Horace Wilson, 35; and James Thorpe, 20, were arrested.

At four a.m. Feb. 10, Bessie Mitchell said she was awakened at the house at 247 Church St. by police who came to arrest "all the men in the house." John McKenzie, McKinley Forest's nephew, the only man in the house at the time, was arrested. On Feb. 15, the police announced that the Horner killers had been apprehended and that five confessions had been signed. Wed.-1-19-49

Contradictions in Record

The trial of the six men lasted nine weeks, involved the testimony of 119 witnesses and produced a 6000-page transcript. Considering the verdict of guilty—with no recommendation for mercy—it contains some startling contradictions. For instance:

¶The murdered man's widow, key witness for the state, admitted that the prosecutor had shown her pictures of the men she was to identify as the murderers. She says she was shown no more than six pictures to identify, that she was not asked to select the six from a larger collection.

¶Mrs. Virginia N. Barclay, who saw three men running from the scene of the crime, testified: "I told Mr. Volpe (Mario Volpe, the prosecutor) they (the defendants) didn't look like the men I saw running away from the Horner store." Wed. 1-19-49

¶Eldracher, the cigar salesman, who also said he saw some men leave the store, was unable to identify any of the six defendants as those he saw.

(13c)

Hint of Drugging

Defense attorneys contended that the only evidence against the six were the "confessions," allegedly signed by five of them. Collis English testified he had signed because of fear. There was a strong implication at least one of the men, McKinley Forest, had been drugged. He told of being given a drink of water with a pill that "looked like an aspirin" in it.

Testimony of friends, neighbors, relatives and employers provided alibis for every one of the six men.

A motion by defense attorneys to examine a transcript of police interrogation of witnesses immediately after the crime was denied.

Citizens Rally to Save 6 Youths

The Courier Pittsburgh Pa.

Sat. 3-5-49

(13c)

Burning of Cross By Klansmen Fails To Scare Group In Union. N. J.

TRENTON, N. J.—What dark and sinister motive lies behind the "Dr. Jekyl-Mr. Hyde" atmosphere of this State of New Jersey? Sat.

Last year this State and its Governor, Alfred B. Driscoll, were praised to the skies throughout the Nation for killing racial discrimination in their National Guard.

Yet, today, in this State many miles north of the Mason-Dixon Line — a Dixie - like "Scottsboro" threatens to take the lives of six Negro youths whose airtight alibis have been callously disregarded by a jury which doomed them to death for a murder which the State still has not proved they committed. 3-5-49

Anti-climaxing that Dixie-like flaunting of justice, New Jersey has gone "Georgia" and last week—just like Georgia's infamous Ku Kluxers demonstrate their hatred for Negroes—a five-foot kerosene-soaked cross was burned in Union while a meeting was being held in a school house in protest against the railroading of the six lads to their deaths.

Union's Police Chief Jacob Dent laughed off the idea that the cross-burning was a serious affair and city officials joined in calling it "a prank," although "Common Sense"—called a "hate sheet"—is published in Union. Some 3,000 Negroes live in Union.

All of it goes back to that New Jersey "Scottsboro" and the six lads who face death even though ironclad alibis proved they were not even near the scene of the crime for which they were convicted when that crime took place.

CROSS BOOMERANGED

And the reaction was swift! Militant Negro leaders in Union got together with a group of whites including Jews and Christians—and formed an organization to combat racial bigotry within the town and mould better relations So, the cross-burning boomeranged Instead of scaring anybody, it drew them closer to each other and made them more determined than ever to fight.

The protest meeting was being staged by members of the Progressive party, which has a large following in New Jersey. It was pointed out that the Union community was a pro-Nazi Bund hotbed when Fritz Kuhn had his storm troppers in action. It had a KKK just after World War I.

Back in the death house in the State penitentiary here, six Negroes—still protesting their innocence—await death.

WHAT IS KNOWN

What are the circumstances? Here they are:

1. **On the morning of Jan. 27 1948, William Horner, 73-year-old white second-hand junk dealer was beaten to death; common-law wife, Mrs. Elizabeth McGuire, was badly beaten.**
2. **No one actually witnessed the crime other than Mrs. McGuire.**
3. **Whoever committed the crime raced from the shop into the street and across to a parked car in which they made their their gataway.**
4. **Several witnesses—outside the shop—saw the men rush from the shop. Cigar salesman Frank Eldracher and a woman, Virginia Barclay, told police this: There were two men and they were either white or light-skinned Negroes. (Mrs. McGuire said her attackers had "slanted eyes.")**

Of those things Trenton police were sure. Those things and nothing more!

NIGHT ROUNDUP

Yet, after a roundup of "suspicious' persons abroad after 11 P. M., six Negro men were arrested, one of them a one-armed man They were Collis English, 23; one-armed James Thorpe, 24; John McKenzie, 24; McKinley Forrest, 35; Ralph Coope, and Horace Wilson, both 37.

They were charged with the crime.

Everyone of the six men had alibis covering their whereabouts at the time of the crime. They had proof to back up their alibis.

NEVER SAW THEM

But an all-white jury of nine women and three men declared them guilty after fifty days of trial had passed. This in spite of the fact that not one witness for the State could remember ever having seen any of the six men before.

THEIR ALIBIS?

Collis English helped his mother wash clothes on the day of

the crime. A next door neighbor verified this, having seen them hanging out the wash about the time of the killing.

James Thorpe was helping his father fix a stalled car at the time of the murder. Three neighbors testified they saw the two at work on the car.

John McKenzie was working at a chicken house cleaning poultry. Six persons swore they saw him and his employer had his time card showing that he worked.

McKinley Forrest, who was working at a slaughter house at the time of the crime, had been sent to a bank by his employers to make a deposit. His employers affirmed this and bank tellers verified that they had seen him.

Ralph Cooper was at his girl friend's house and while there accepted a package from a mailman who remembered the incident.

Horace Wilson was working at a place called "Dilatush's" loading potatoes. The foreman there verified this, produced work slips slips showing Wilson at work from 8 to 12 and several employes vouched for the fact. An official of the firm said he saw Wilson working about the time of the murder.

Those are the facts . . . the jury chose to disbelieve them . . . them . .. and returned a verdict of "guilty" for all six.

Police said robbery was the motive. But $1,000 on Horner's body was not disturbed, nor did it appear that any other money had been taken from the shop.

CONFESSIONS FRAMED?

Alleged "confessions" were introduced by police saying the men had done the killing.

But the men were quick to answer this, saying they had been given some sort of "strange" medicine before the confessions were signed. Some said they had never signed. A doctor admitted he had administered "medicine" to some of them . . . And the real truth still is cover with mystery.

But, in spite of their alibis, six Negro men face death in a New Jersey "Scottsboro" case. What dark and sinister motive lies behind all this?

'Trenton-Six' Appeal to Get Hearing Today

W. Jay N.

The Courier-Journal

Louisville, Ky.

13c

Jersey High Court Acts Amid Protests

5-16-49 Mon.

Trenton, N. J., May 15 (AP)—The mass death sentence against "the Trenton six"—six Negroes described by the Civil Rights Congress as police "frame-up" victims—will get an appeal hearing tomorrow.

The hearing was scheduled by the New Jersey Supreme Court in the wake of a world-wide protest which included fund-raising rallies and an appeal to the United Nations Human Rights Commission.

The Civil Rights Congress, which spearheaded the campaign for the six men, attacked the mass conviction as "the Government's answer to the American Negroes' striving for freedom and dignity."

The New Jersey C.I.O. came out for a new trial, but said it coudld not "join in the hysterical appeal" made by "organizations listed as subversive by the Department of Justice."

The C.I.O. said it had decided to take a stand on the case, but was "not going to follow the Communist Party line and exploit Negroes for political purposes."

Convicted In Slaying.

The Negroes, ranging in age from 23 to 37, were convicted on charges of beating to death 72-year-old William Horner during a robbery at the man's second-hand furniture store the morning of January 27, 1948.

The Civil Rights Congress, an organization on the Department of Justice subversive list, labeled the men "the Trenton six" and organized the international series of protest meetings.

The civil-rights group said witnesses reported seeing only three men at the robbery scene, but that police rounded up the six Negroes and "drugged" all of them into confessing.

"Conviction of the six Negroes by an all-white jury was based solely on so-called 'confessions' which were extorted from the men and later repudiated by all of them," a Civil Rights Congress statement said.

Trial Took 9 Weeks.

"They were arrested without warrants, not permitted to consult with counsel, and questioned by relays of police officers for five days and nights," the statement said.

Former Assistant U. S. Attorney General O. John Rogge heads the staff of defense attorneys that will press the appeal action tomorrow. Rogge entered the case early this year.

The original trial took nine weeks, culminating last August 6 in the conviction of all six defendants. Included in the group are Collis English, 23; Ralph Cooper, 23; McKinley Forrest, 35; John McKenzie, 24; Horace Wilson, 37, and James Thorpe, 24.

The Civil Rights Congress said the mass convictions were "an attempted lynching — Northern style."

Rogge's Plea for Trenton 6 Ruffles Jersey Justices

13c

W. Jay N.

(N. J.)

The Worker

New York, N.Y.

The seven figures in black robes sitting in the high-backed swivel chairs behind the long desk would have looked like a row of crows except that four of them were bald. The pink scalps spoiled the illusion. Besides, likening them to birds is probably punishable contempt; this was the Supreme Court of New Jersey. The Garden State. Official flower: The Violet. Motto: Liberty and Prosperity.

After eight and one-half months in cells in the death house in the State Prison in Trenton six Negroes charged with murder were having their case appealed before the state's highest tribunal. But all the formality was false, the dignity was deceptive, the politeness was as insincere as a diplomat's.

5-22-49

Because the victims are innocent.

But Mercer County, of which Trenton is the county seat, had gone through the motions of a trial. In fact, Mercer County boasts that it was the biggest, longest and most expensive trial in its history. The local newspapers take a reverse pride in the statistics: it lasted 44 days, filled 16 volumes of printed record with a total of 6,035 pages and cost $50,000. If the death sentences are carried out, it will be the biggest mass execution since the state was settled 270 years ago.

★

BECAUSE THE MOTIONS of a trial had been made, the doors of the Supreme Court were closed on reality and the proceedings were reduced to the abacadabra of lawyers. The seven black-robed figures were concerned with the crossing of t's and the dotting of i's and the correct placement of commas.

13c

The local attorneys, appointed by the trial court to defend the victims, stuck to the legalisms. They were nervous men as they addressed the seven black robes; their voices quivered and their hands wouldn't behave. Two of them had been city judges; maybe they wanted to be judges again. Whatever their ambitions, they lived in Trenton and they had to get along in Trenton. They prefaced their remarks with declarations that the trial had been fair, the judge had been fair, the prosecution had been fair. It was as though they were apologizing for questioning the verdict of death for six innocent men.

When one of them described his clients as "members of a race slightly removed from the aborigine," some spectators in the courtroom started as though they had been kicked in the face; they looked unquestionably at each other as though saying, Did you hear what I heard? Suddenly the smell of magnolias, the pistol-crack of the bullwhip and the clank of chains was in the room. This was a defense lawyer speaking. But the seven black robes were unruffled.

Sun. 5-22-49

★

WHEN O. JOHN ROGGE, the former Assistant United States Attorney General retained by the Civil Rights Congress to represent three of the defendants on the appeal, took the floor, he was an angry man. He didn't apologize for being there. "This case," he said in a voice louder than any other that had been heard, "is a gross miscarriage of justice." The word "justice" had a startling effect. "I charge," he continued, "that the prosecutor's office cooperated with the police department to rape justice."

Now the seven black robes were ruffled. They stirred uneasily. They admonished him to remember that he was addressing a Supreme Court, not a hall full of people. "I am outraged," he said. But legalism is legalism, and he had to stick to the law and the record.

Of the record, it was argued that it was full of holes. Even the local attorneys, apologetic as they were, cited reversible errors. It was charged that the victims had been arrested haphazardly and arbitrarily; that confessions (repudiated in open court) had been extorted from them by the use of drugs and force; that they had been held incommunicado in violation of Constitutional guarantees of due process of law; that the prosecutor had suppressed evidence; that the testimony of the state's only witness to the crime was absolutely without credence; that there had been no proper identification of the accused; that the judge's charge to the jury had been improper; and that the jury had returned an improper verdict."

County Prosecutor Mario H. Volpe. a politically-ambitious man, defended the arrests, the trial, the verdict. "The record (in this case)," said he, "is a monument to Jersey justice."

Perhaps it is. At least to Trenton justice. The Mayor of the city is an ex-Christian Front organizer, an ex-America Firster specializing in local red scares. The foreman of a jury that acquitted him on bribery charges was shortly thereafter appointed school grounds and building supervisor at a $7,000-a-year salary.

Sun. 5-22-49

THE SIX MEN who have been living in the death house for eight and a half months were arrested during a "crime wave" in which the newspapers were demanding that something be done about the state's "Idle Electric Chair." Squads of cops armed with tommy-guns prowled the Negro community in a campaign of terror. Said Public Safety Director Andrew Duch: "Well-meaning people may accuse us of acting like a Gestapo, but we are willing to take their criticism."

But they haven't ben able to take the criticism. The national and international protests in this case have made them edgy and fearful. During the Supreme Court hearing they surrounded the building with State Troopers in shiny black boots; they closed all but the main entrance; they patrolled the corridors; they barred entry to the courtroom to all but lawyers, accredited newspapermen and a few relatives of the defendants; they permitted no one to leave while the hearing was in progress. They behaved like men with very bad consciences.

5-22-49

A light was on them, and they squirmed under it. After all, it is much easier to send six innocent men to death when no one is looking.

13c 1949 Whites by Negroes (New York)

Rigged Juries Victimize Negroes

Worker – N.Y., N.Y.

Sun. 3-13-49

Attorney for Lee Caswell, a Negro held on sentence of death for the murder of a white man in Dallas County, have filed an appeal with the United States Supreme Court on the grounds that Caswell's conviction was invalid because the indictment against him was returned by a Grand Jury from which Negroes were excluded.

Caswell had repudiated in open court alleged "confessions" he had made, and presented an alibi, but was nevertheless convicted.

Defense attorneys have now brought evdence to bear proving that systematic discrimination against Negroes serving on Grand Juries exists in Dallas County. More than 20 percent of the residents of the county are Negroes, yet the undisputed evidence proves that from 1942 through 1947, only 15 Negroes served on some 20 grand juries.

3-13-49

Caswell's attorneys also drew admissions from the last three Grand Jury Commissioners, who selected the all-white jury which indicted Caswell, that while they know of qualified Negroes in Dallas for grand jury service, only one was considered, and that one was excused.

13c

This case illustrates once more the tremendous significance which the trial of the Communist leaders in N. Y. holds for the Negro people and the workers of America. The exposure of the undemocratic "stacking" of Grand Juries can bring about a more democratic jury system, and prevent some of the rotten frame-ups to which workers and the Negro people have been subjected in the past.

3-13-49

NORFOLK, Va. — Attorneys for Carvel Benson, a Negro indicted for bribery, have demanded dismissal of the indictment on grounds of "a systematic and intentional exclusion of all from the grand jury but the financially able, influential and educated." Benson had been indicted by a special grand jury which included the president of the Robertson Chemical Company, president of the National Bank of Commerce, president of the Virginia Ferry Corporation, president of the Virginian Railway, vice-president of the Royster Guano Company, a former assistant Commonwealth's Attorney, and a local court reporter.

Fight 'Legal Lynching' of 2 Carolina Negro Youths

(13c) W by N (N.C.)

Special to the Daily Worker Daily Worker, New York

DURHAM, N. C., July 3.—The shadow of the gas chamber looms over Bennie and Lloyd Ray Daniels, teen-age Negro youths of Greenville, N. C., now under a "legal lynching death sentence on a charge of murder of a white cab driver. Evidence that the Negro youths were railroaded into forced confessions, in order to cover up for the real killer, in an affair involving two white men and jealousy over a married woman, was suppressed by the police and ignored by the court.

[illegible] 7-4-49

Background of the case is a long story of increasing police brutality toward Negroes in this little Black Belt southern town, especially following the political stirrings that grew out of unionization of seasonal leafhouse tobacco workers in the Food and Tobacco Workers in the last four years.

(13c)

UNEARTH EVIDENCE

Determined and courageous detective and organizational work by Cornelius Simmons, tobacco workers' leader, and other Greenville Negro citizens, helped to unearth the evidence of a frameup. Much of this testimony was presented at the trial, though it meant facing lynch terror at the hands of Klan or police. 7-4-49

Witnesses testified that the slain cab driver's car was seen followed by another car toward the "lovers' lane" death site; that a white woman was seen, bloody, in the vicinity later; that a woman's coat was found on the ground at the scene; and that white men who knew the driver were overheard, when he was found dead, discussing his involvement with a married woman, and his having been followed by another car when he left a dance with her the night of the killing.

It is a matter of common belief in Greenville that the two youths are being railroaded to cover up for someone. The state's only evidence implicating them were confessions extorted by force.

Appeals have been filed by attorneys Gates and Taylor of Raleigh to the State Supreme Court, on the grounds that confessions were extorted and that no Negro has ever been on a grand jury in Greenville. 7-4-49

YOUTH'S STATEMENT

Lloyd Ray Daniels, 16, one of the youths, says: "After I was arrested I was taken by three officers to the woods near Williamston, N. C., handcuffed, and told to get out of the car and tell who killed that white man. (It was February and a freezing rain was falling.) I knew nothing about it and when I tried to explain to the officers I was told by them if I wanted to see my mama again I had better own that Bennie and I did it. I only had three minutes to make up my mind. I asked what they were going to do to me. They said, 'kill you.' After I had stood in the rain, wet, cold and nearly frozen, they said, 'This is your last chance,' and pulled some object from behind them. I said 'Yes.'" 7-4-49

The lead in publicizing the case has been taken by the People's Legislative Conference.

Reports are beginning to come in of these cases being discussed in white organizations—a white Sunday school in Rocky Mount, N. C., in the heart of the tobacco-plantation, Klan-ridden area near Greenville itself; in a Jewish organization at Chapel Hill.

The Progressive Party has helped arrange the presentation of these cases at Negro churches in Durham, with relatives and friends of the Daniels presenting their cause at a mass meeting of several hundred in the Mount Vernon Baptist Church in Durham. Other meetings have been held in Winston-Salem, and towns in the eastern part of the state.

Butler's Confession Bared In Charlotte

Daily World Wed. 8-3-49

CHARLOTTE, N. C.— (INS)—A discharged Negro Butler will be tried for first degree murder in the confessed slaying of wealthy socialite Mrs. Easley Anderson, Sr., in her surbubran Charlotte home.

The Negro, 23-year-old Monroe Medlin was being held by Charlotte police Tuesday without bond.

Police Chief Frank Littlejohn said Tuesday that Medlin could be charged with several other crimes, but only the murder charge will be brought.

Littlejohn said that fingerprints found on the shotgun that killed Mrs. Anderson and a bedroom lamp match those of Medlin.

Earlier today, Medlin told the police chief that he had shot Mrs. Anderson when she discovered him prowling in her home Monday morning.

Atlanta Ga.

Medlin said he returned to the Anderson home to get a copy of his service discharge and a book of pictures of nude white women.

Medlin was captured early Tuesday when he fled from his hideout near Charlotte. His wife told police where he could be found.

Police said Medlin's record shows that he served a term in Milwaukee Federal Disciplinary barracks for draft-dodging. 13c

The butler now employed in the home was seriously beaten and slashed as Medlin fled from the house.

Here's an account of the affray based on Chief Littlejohn's summary of Medlin's confession:

Medlin entered the house where he had been discharged two weeks ago, and went to Mrs. Anderson's bedroom. The victim was "writing something" and ran for her husband's shotgun when she saw her former employe.

They grappled over the weapon and it went off, striking the 68-year old socialite in the chest. Medlin grabbed eleven dollars and left, attacking Wilford Randleman, 48, when reaching the first floor.

The prisoner said he was afraid Randleman had heard the shot and would summon help.

Mrs. Anderson's husband, a wealthy Columbia Automobile dealer, had left home a short while before the crime occurred.

Daily World Wed. 8-3-49 13c

The chief said Medlin had been dismissed when found with a woman in his quarters at the Anderson home.

Former Butler Admits Killing N. C. Matron

Wed. 8-3-49

CHARLOTTE, N. C. (AP)—Police yesterday ended their widespread search for the killer of an elderly society matron with the arrest of her former Negro butler.

Police Chief Frank N. Littlejohn reported the Negro, a convicted draft dodger, had admitted shooting Mrs. Esley O. Anderson, Sr., 68, to death with a shotgun in her fashionable home here Monday.

Littlejohn identified the former servant as Monroe Medlin, 23. He said Medlin also had admitted attacking the butler who replaced him, Wilford Randleman, 48, with a heavy iron pipe and slashing his throat.

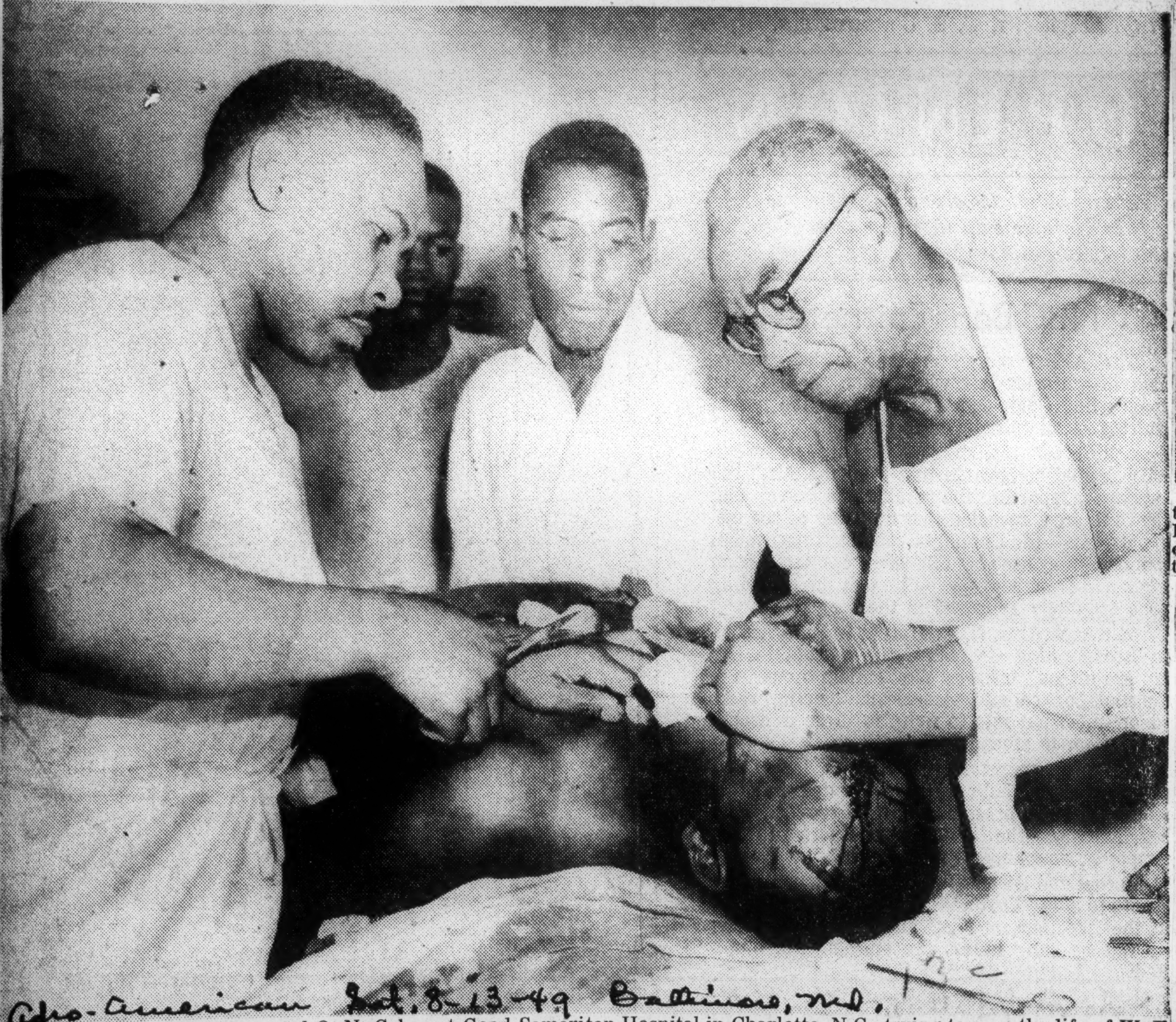
13c

Randleman, in a semi-coma at a local hospital, has been unable to talk to police since the killer fled the blood-splattered home.

Medlin, discharged by the prominent woman's husband last month when he took a Negro girl to his servant's quarters, stole $11 from Mrs. Anderson's purse after shooting her, the Chief reported.

A statement which Littlejohn said the discharged butler made shortly after his arrest quoted the Negro as saying he went to the house to get "my belongings." He was surprised in the house.

Victim of Killer's Attack Hovers Between Life and Death



Afro-American Sat. 8-13-49 Baltimore, Md.

Doctors Edison E. Blackman and O. N. Coker at Good Samaritan Hospital in Charlotte, N.C., trying to save the life of W. E. Randleman. Monroe Medlin tried to kill Mr. Randleman to keep him from identifying Medlin as the confessed killer of Mrs. E. O. Anderson, white.

Was Getting Belongings When Surprised, Says Vet

Afro-American Sat 8-13-49

Former Butler in Wealthy Home Describes Attack on Successor While Fleeing Scene

By JOE MAXWELL

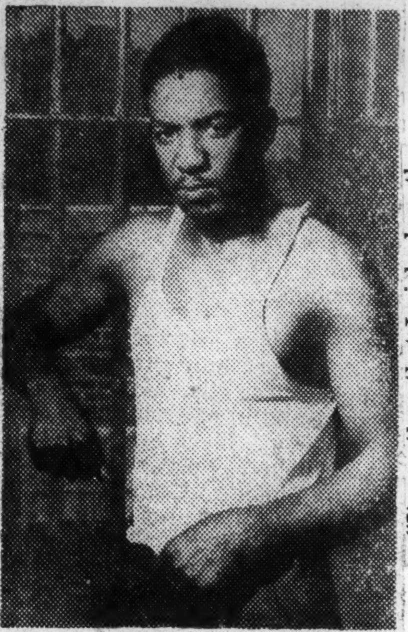
CHARLOTTE, N.C.—Monroe Medlin, 23, signed his own death warrant here last week by confessing to the dawn slaying of Mrs. E. O. Anderson, 68-year-old prominent white woman.

Medlin, a former veteran, was once the butler in the home of the Andersons, owners of the Pyramid Motor Company here. He also cracked the skull of the present butler, W. E. Randleman, cut his throat, fractured his jaw and knocked the other out of place, according to Drs. E. E. Blackman and O. N. Coker.

Word-for-Word Confessions

Medlin's confession word for word follows:

"I left 514 E. Second St., Monday morning, about 5 a.m. and walked out to the home of Mr. Anderson at 1128 Queens Road, for the purpose of getting my belongings and my discharge papers. I got to the servant's house in the rear of the house and climbed the big house, the Andersons's home.



Monroe Medlin, 23, set off a nation-wide alarm in Charlotte, N.C., last week when he killed a prominent white woman and savagely attacked the butler.

"I then left and went to the garage and got an iron pipe and came back in the little house. Soon the colored man came back and looked as if he were going to unpack his bag.

"He then saw me and asked me what I was doing there and who I was. . . . . I told him that I used to work there and came for my things.

He told me that I now had no business there and should not be there.

"I told him not to say anything, I was going to get my clothes.

Had Woman in Quarters, Fired

"He went out again towards the window. No one was in there and I lay across the bed. When I heard someone open the door I got up and hid behind the door.

[Note: Medlin was fired two weeks ago for having a woman in his quarters; he was caught by the dead woman's husband and discharged for it. He did not know that the Andersons had hired another man in his place.]

"I saw this tall colored man put a suitcase on the floor and head towards the big house as I heard Mr. Anderson start the car and leave. I then left the little house and slipped in the rear door of the big house.

"I hesitated at the bottom of the stairs going to Mrs. Anderson's room and saw Randleman standing in the kitchen at the sink. He did not see me. I slipped up the stairs.

"When I got there, Mrs. Anderson was just leaving the desk and had something in her hand, which looked like a letter. She saw me and asked me what I was doing out there, that I had no business on her property.

She also said that her husband (E. O. Anderson) was looking for me.

[NOTE: Mrs. Anderson's husband had a warrant sworn out for Medlin for stealing some valuables upon being fired.]

"I told her that I could explain. She went from the big room to the little room and came out with a shotgun and pointed it at me.

"We Had a Tussle"

"I asked her not to shoot me that I was not going to hurt her, but she pointed it at me anyway.

"I was a little nervous. I was afraid that she was going to hurt me so I rushed her and we had a tussle all the way from the bedroom through the bath into the living room.

"She was as strong as I was, but for a minute she seemed calmer and I asked her again to put the gun down and I would leave and that I did not want to hurt anybody or get hurt, but she kept pointing it at me.

"We then started tussling and in going around the bed, a light was turned on. I cut it off. Mrs. Anderson seemed to tire, and her foot slipped on a rug and in the tussle the gun fent off shooting her (in the left breast near the heart killing her instantly.

Also Used Razor on Man

"I then went out the front door, back around to the little house. He (Randleman) was standing in the door and tried to keep me out. I ran past him and he gave chase.

"It was then that I picked up the iron pipe, which I had gotten from the garage, and hit him over the head. I knocked him down and then hit him three more times; he fell on his knees.

"I then reached in my pocket and got a double-edge razor-blade and slashed him on both sides of the neck. I then left the house and headed for the Cherry section (colored area adjoining exclusive Myers Park.)

"I got rid of my shoes in the Greenville area by putting them in a garbage can. I do not know where. While upstairs and after Mrs. Anderson was shot, I rifled the dresser drawers."

Medlin took $11 and her car keys, but dropped the latter in his leave.

Baltimore, Md.

Gave Up When Facing Guns

A number of people were questioned before Medlin was captured; men were stopped in Greensboro and Danville, Va., and the FBI was alerted over the entire Northeast.

Medlin, when cornered, jumped out of a two-story building and ran in the rear but gave up without a fight upon looking down the barrel of a flock of guns. It was reported that Medlin had his suitcase packed ready to flee the city.

Medlin is now under heavy guard at the Mecklenburg County Jail. The AFRO-AMERICAN questioned the big brass at police headquarters about the murder.

Says Police in Control

Captain Williams said that sentiment ran and is running pretty high, but that the police have plenty ammunition. He showed the AFRO the large cabinets containing machine guns and tear gas guns and rifles.

Top questions of the day are: Why didn't Mrs. Anderson call to the butler immediately upon seeing Medlin? Did the butler hear the terrific struggle? All the immediate neighbors seem to have heard some funny noise.

Medlin looked "calm, cool and collected" as the chief, police and detectives questioned him but from the looks of things he signed his own death warrant and his three C's may be approaching an end.

Medlin's trial is being speeded up and evidence will be presented directly to the grand jury, unless Medlin requests a preliminary hearing in police court, which is his right. Medlin is being held without bond.

Medlin is not a native of Charlotte. Just where he came from was still unavailable, even to the police. He did serve in the Army overseas and had a bad record, police said.

Claim Youths Admit Slaying Cab Driver

Pittsburg Courier

13c

Pittsburg Pa

GREENVILLE, N. C.—Two teen-aged boys were said to have confessed here Monday to the murder of a white taxi driver.

Sat 2-19-49

Sheriff Ruel W. Tyson said the boys, who were rushed to an undisclosed jail for safekeeping, admitted that they "beat, cut and stomped" the white man to death and then robbed his person of three dollars.

He gave the boys' names as Bennie Daniel, 18, and Jeora Daniel, 19, who are cousins.

The sheriff asserts that the two youths signed confessions that they killed William Benjamin O'Neal, 29-year-old cab driver whose body was found near Greenville Sunday.

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2 White Men 'Finger' Suspect, Get Indicted

The Afro American

13c

Afro American Baltimore Md.

By JOE MAXWELL

CONCORD, N.C.—Because three NAACP lawyers could not believe that two Southern white men would just stand by and let someone attack a white woman, the two will face trial with Albert Brown, 50, in the murder of Mrs. Lizzie Morgan, 47.

Brown, a 50-year-old concrete worker, was originally considered solely responsible for the fatal beating of Mrs. Morgan on April 10.

Baltimore Md

However, a short period of investigation soon implicated Mrs. Morgan's 69-year-old husband, Lane, and his landlord, Glenn T. Furr.

Sat. 5-7-49

The case grew out of a wild drinking party which involved all four persons. Brown, who told the coroner's jury that he had gone to the woods alone and was joined by the others, was indicted after the jury decided how the woman met her death.

Sat 5-7-49

Glenn and Morgan were not accused at that time by the jury. They maintained that they saw Brown hit the woman in the head with a brick while bending over in an effort to criminally assault her. They said that they were within striking distance but did nothing to stop him.

That didn't sound like the usual Dixie pattern to J. S. Bowser, L. P. Harris and Thomas Wyche, all Charlotte attorneys.

All NAACP lawyers, they did a little secret investigating and then told the grand jury, all white, that evidence revealed that the two white men were in on the killing just as much as Brown.

The jury decided that evidence was strong and indicted the duo on April 28. They were picked up immediately.

Morgan Served Time for Murder

Furr said after he was arrested that he was never so surprised in all his life. "You could have knocked me down with a feather," he exclaimed. He has no police record, heretofore.

Morgan served 20 years in the State prison at Raleigh for the murder of a Montgomery county man, according to police records. He began his sentence in 1901 and has been arrested of late on assault charges.

Brown has been arrested on several minor charges—drunkenness and assault.

The AFRO was told that the 69-year-old unemployed textile worker had been known to hire his wife out.

Tried to Get Case Dropped

The NAACP lawyers presented a motion last Friday that the bill of indictment against Brown be quashed, but it was denied by Judge Peyton McSwain.

They maintained that County Solicitor H. W. Galloway was eager to trade for second degree murder, but that they were not in the mood for such bargaining.

Formal arraignment followed, and Brown pleaded not guilty. His bond was set at $10,000. Lawyers for the white men were successful in getting the judge to reduce their bond from $5,000 to $2,500.

He denied Brown's bond reduced on the grounds that he was the main one accused.

The case of the trio will be continued to the next term of Superior Court, which will convene in August.

Jury Exclusion Questioned

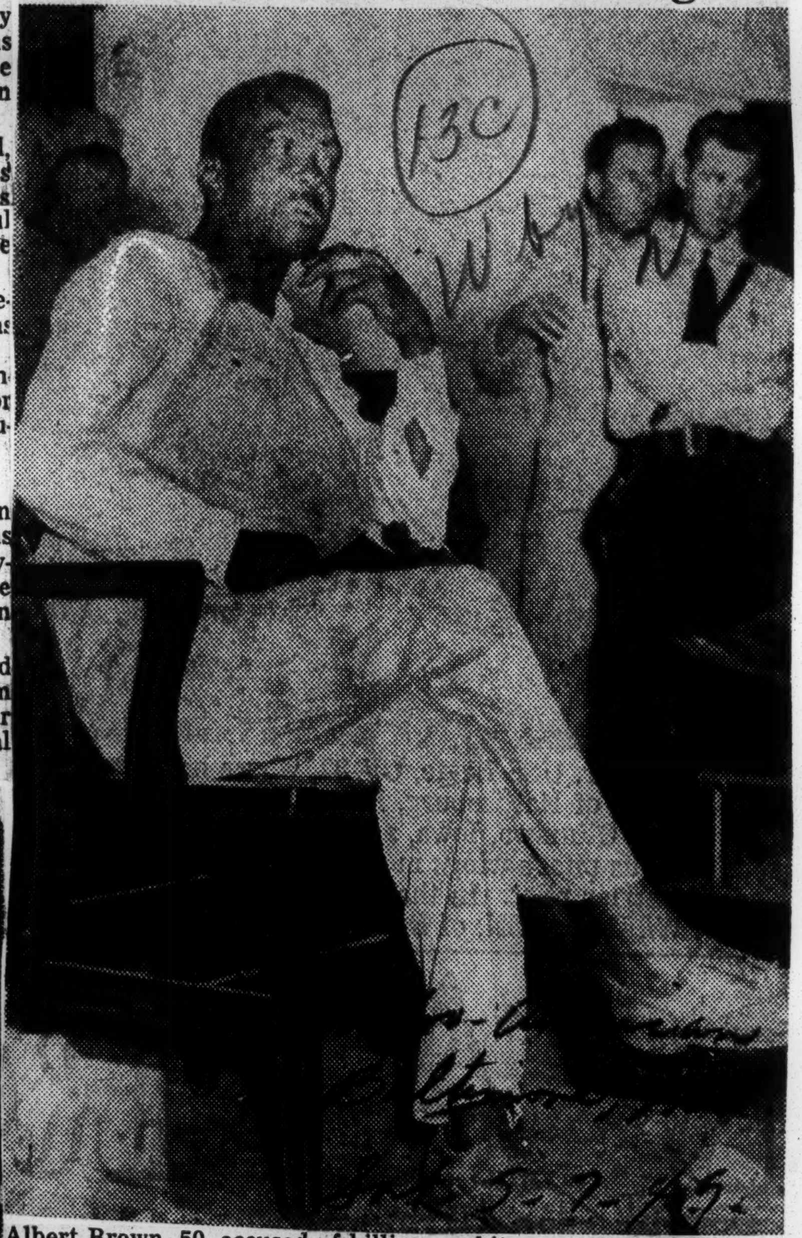
During the hearing, the question of exclusion of colored persons from jury service was raised. Several testified that colored have never served on a jury before in this county.

The NAACP lawyers maintained that discrimination has kept them from being selected, but their questions received only the usual answers.

Surprised

Glenn T. Furr (above) is one of the two white men who will stand trial with Albert Brown in the murder of Mrs. Lizzie Morgan, 47-year-old white woman, in Concord, N.C. He and Mrs. Morgan's husband, the other white man, were not indicted at first. However, an NAACP investigation showed that they were as much involved in the killing as Brown was and they were both arrested. "You could have knocked me down with a feather," said Furr, describing his surprise at his arrest.

2 Whites Also In on Killing



13C

Afro-American Baltimore

Sat 5-7-49

Albert Brown, 50, accused of killing a white woman in North Carolina on April 10, will not stand trial alone for murder. Two white men have also been indicted after an NAACP investigation of the woman's death disclosed that they were also involved. The slain woman is Mrs. Lizzie Morgan of Concord, N.C. Her husband, Lane Morgan, and his landlord, Glenn T. Furr, are the white men who now will also stand trial with Brown in the killing. Morgan at one time served 20 years for the murder of a man in Montgomery County.

Sat 5-7-49

Murder Confessed, But Cops Determined to Hang Negro

The Worker New York. N.Y. Sun 1-3-49 (13c) Wtyn

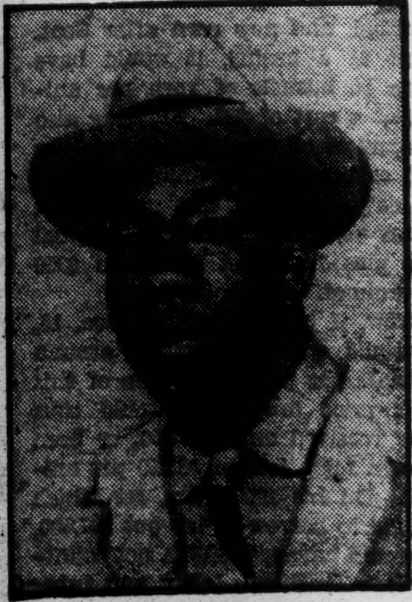
1-3-49. The Worker.

By Walter Lowenfels Pa.

PHILADELPHIA.—Five months after Mrs. Kathryn Meller was found murdered, a police "confession" was used to convict Bayard Jenkins, a 19-year-old Negro. Two weeks later, on Dec. 8, a bombshell blew the Jenkins case wide open. Another man admitted he murdered Mrs. Meller. The Worker

Bayard Jenkins had protested his innocence, but was frightened into a confession, and then convicted. The Philadelphia police "solved" another murder. New York N.Y.

Two days later, on Dec. 10, the admitted slayer recanted his confession, said it was "all a dream." But the "strange case of the somersaulting confession," as a young novelist now describes it in the **Pittsburgh Courier,** suddenly reached thousands whom it might have taken months, years, to interest in the frameup of one more Negro youth.



BAYARD JENKINS

"It comes at a bad time," was the first comment by Detective Captain James Kelly of the homicide squad when the news of the new confession first reached him, Dec. 8.

At 2 a.m. that morning, Herbert Leroy Gulembo had telephoned the Saginaw, Mich., police, told them he was in a taproom, drinking, and bothered by the conviction of someone else for a murder he committed in Philadelphia.

Gulembo, a 24-year-old former Philadelphia cemetery worker, and occasional junk buyer, is known to his friends as "Reds," for the shock of hair that tops his slight frame.

★

BROUGHT IN by Saginaw detectives, he volunteered a detailed account of how he beat, almost raped, killed, robbed Mrs. Kathryn Meller, 43-year-old artist and mystery writer, in her Girard Ave. walk-up flat when she repulsed him while her husband was at work the afternoon of June 7.

In Philadelphia later that day, Detective Captain Kelly explained that the new development came at a bad time because the mandatory death sentence against Jenkins has not yet been pronounced, pending argument on his appeal for a new trial.

"We are convinced," Kelly added, "that we have convicted the man who murdered Mrs. Meller." His police associates issued similar statements and pointed to slight discrepancies in Gulembo's confession.

Why are the authorities so convinced of Jenkins' guilt that they reaffirm it instantaneously, discredit Gulembo's confession before making even the slightest re-investigation?

Consider the logic of the police position: The incredible has happened. Another man has admitted the crime for which someone else was convicted, not on circumstantial evidence, not through mistaken witnesses, but on the sole evidence of a repudiated confession that Jenkins said police obtained by threatening to "beat out my brains."

FROM HERE ON, the police are driven to extreme lengths to make their conviction of Jenkins stick, for the unpredictable has smitten them with the appearance of Gulembo, and they are impelled to prove the "somersaulting confessor" innocent. 1-2-49 Sun

They ignored demands to extradite Gulembo. A week after he confessed, the prosecuting assistant district attorney, Raymond Speiser, and Capt. Kelly, journeyed to Saginaw. They questioned Gulembo.

On Dec. 16, they issued a formaly statement that Gulembo is an alcoholic, had made his confession during a drinking spree and had no part in the crime.

The most startling information was given us by Gulembo's brother-in-law, who still lives a few doors away. He told us how he and Gulembo spent the evening before the murder with the Mellers at a veterans' post, as Gulembo's confession had related.

"I was the one who was supposed to call on Mrs. Meller on Monday, June 7, about buying some of her antiques. Reds (Gulembo) knew about the arrangement. He knew I couldn't go because I had to work that day.

"When he came in that night, we showed him the paper with the story of Mrs. Meller's murder. He turned white and walked out without saying a word.

"When he had left that morning, he didn't have any money. When he got back, he was buying drinks for everybody at two nearby tap rooms. When he was asked about the murder of Mrs. Meller there, he got sick to his stomach and almost fainted. Sun. 1-2-49

"The next day he disappeared. His wife, Johanna, my wife's sister, told us he had been sick and thrown up that night and couldn't sleep."

He told us more about Gulembo, none of it favorable, and confirmed reports that he is a "vino," the term for drinkers who confine themselves to wine and go haywire.

"Why didn't you tell your story to the police?"

"I have. A detective was just around last week. He said Reds' confession came at a bad time. He said I shouldn't speak to anybody."

A few days later we learned that police have unearthed witnesses who now recall that six months earlier Gulembo was in their company all the afternoon Mrs. Meller was murdered. They even found witnesses from whom Gulembo bummed small sums that afternoon, amounting to some $3.15, thus accounting for the free drinks he was buying the evening that Mrs. Meller was murdered.

★

THUS THE POLICE have not only un-confessed the somersaulting confessor. They have, after a six months' lapse, produced an alibi for him.

In contrast, the witnesses who accounted for Jenkins' movements the same afternoon were called "bums" in court by the prosecutor. This, coupled by the fact that they were all Negroes, apparently discredited their evidence.

We spoke with seven of these people. They re-enacted Jenkins' actions for us. Independently, and minute by minute, Jenkins was with someone, or seen by someone, during the whole hot June afternoon that Mrs. Meller met her death.

We originally took up Jenkins' case, initiating the campaign for his freedom, through a bloodstained shirt belonging to him and found in his home. The prosecutor, Speiser, whipped it out unexpectedly in court:

"Count the bloodstains," he thundered. When Jenkins counted 40, Speiser waved the shirt at the jury: "There are 60 bloodstains," maintaining they were Mrs. Meller's.

Jenkins insisted it was his own blood, and came from a bloody nose received in a fight with a friend.

We wondered: Instead of flinging a bloody shirt around the courtroom, why doesn't Speiser produce a scientific analysis to prove his claim that the blood was Mrs. Meller's?

Belated blood tests, now underway at the defense's request, are under police supervision. Jenkins' brother, Isaac, who has been helping to rally people for his brother's freedom, told me:

"When I heard we didn't have a chemist checking and watching those blood tests, I gave up the shirt. The fight goes on, regardless."

13c 1949

Whites by Negroes (South Carolina)

Court Frees Man Doomed to Die In Double Murder

The Dispatch, Sat. 7-9-49

WASHINGTON — (ANP) —L. D. Harris, 25, of Aiken, S. C. native, sentenced to die for a double murder in Aiken county in April, 1946, is well on his way to being a free man as a result of a U. S. Supreme court decision that his confession to the crime was obtained by fear and physical force. Harris was convicted January, 1947, for killing Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Bennett, white, rural storekeepers near Aiken and was scheduled to die in the electric chair last Feb. 13th. Oklahoma, Okla.

However, he was granted a stay of execution until the supreme court heard his appeal.

At issue was the matter of whether his confession was obtained by "physical force, violence, fear, threats, intimidation and duress." The Aiken county court of general sessions and the state supreme court ruled it had been "freely and voluntarily made." The high court of the land, in a 5-4 decision, ruled otherwise.

The victims lived over their store. Bennett was found mortally wounded near an open, empty cash drawer by a neighbor. His wife was slumped on the floor by the kitched door. In his dying breath, Bennett said "A big Negro shot me and robbed me."

Harris was arrested in Nashville and returned to Aiken for questioning. After three days, he signed a confession.

In his appeal, Harris claimed two of his questioners struck him in the face and another shook a blackjack at him. He quoted one as saying, "If you don't say you did kill those people, we will get a rope and a rubber hose and you know what we will do."

The reversing decision was handed down by Justice Frankfurther and was based on the allegation that Harris was held a long time without being arraigned. Justice Jackson wrote the dissenting opinion, sided by Chief Justice Vinson and Justice Reed and Burton.

S. C. Man Freed Of One Murder Faces Another

Atlanta, Ga.

COLUMBIA, S. C. —(ANP)— L. D. Harris, freed from the shadow of the electric chair for the murder of a white Aiken county storekeeper and filling station operator, is still in the state penitentiary here, facing trial for the murder of the victim's wife. He won his freedom through an appeal to the U. S. Supreme court, but instead of being released, was kept in the penitentiary on a second indictment. [illegible]

Harris was tried in January, 1947, for the murder of Edward L. Bennett, on April 28, 1946. Found guilty and sentenced to death by electrocution, Harris appealed to the state supreme court. This court stayed execution but later in a 3-2 decision affirmed the action of the lower court. The dissenting opinion held that Harris' confession had not been freely given.

13c 46

The case went to the U. S. Supreme court which reversed last August the state court ruling on the ground that the confession used in the trial was "wrung from the defendent."

However, Harris was still held in prison on an indictment charging him with the murder of Bennett's wife. According to the clerk of the state supreme court, the indictment had been transferred to the Aiken county docket and the case is still pending.

— HELP FURNISH NIXON HOME —

Seek Hired Man In White's Death

Courier

McKENZIE, Tenn.—A migrant farmhand, suspected of murder in connection with the ice pick-bludgeon slaying of a local planter and businessman early this week, apparently had eluded, at least temporarily, a police search.

9-3-49

Posses combed four West Tennessee counties for Reuben Parham, 31, wanted in connection with the alleged murder and robbery of C. Earroll Kirk, 49, who was killed Monday afternoon in a roadside barn on his farm a mile and a half west of here.

Pittsburgh Pa.

Kirk's body was discovered by his wife, Mrs. Ale[illegible]rawley Kirk, and Tom Scott, a Negro farmhand.

WALLET MISSING

They found Kirk sprawled on the barn floor, a deep stab wound in his ear, which officers said was inflicted with either an ice pick or a file. His wallet, containing approximately $75, was missing.

— HELP FURNISH NIXON HOME

13c 1949 Whites by whites (Texas)

Texas Deputy Gives Up In Slaying of Newsman

Courier-Journal

13c

Victim Said Officer Owned Dance Hall Where 'Loose Women Plied Their Trade'

From Wire Dispatches.

Alice, Texas, July 29.—W. H. "Bill" Mason, 51, veteran newspaper and radioman, was killed today on a street of this south Texas town.

Deputy Sheriff Sam Smithwick, 60, surrendered after the shooting. Mason, program director of Alice radio station KBKI, yesterday referred to the deputy in a broadcast as owner of a building which houses a dime-a-dance palace.

July 29-30 '49

One bullet from a .45-caliber revolver hit Mason near the heart as he climbed from his automobile in an industrial section of Alice.

Gives No Statement.

As the killer left the scene in an automobile, the dying Mason crawled 50 yards for help, inching his way to the front porch of the Alice Pipe & Supply Company. Mason died in a hospital 30 minutes after the shooting.

Sheriff H. P. Sain of Jim Wells County filed a charge of murder against Smithwick. He said Smithwick had made no statement, but was confined in Jail.

"I understand the shooting was the result of an argument," said Sain.

Mason's son, Bert, 22, said his father had been feuding with the sheriff's department for some time.

County Attorney Homer E. Dean, Jr., said Mason broadcast that "Loose women plied their trade at the dance hall on the property owned by Smithwick." The hall, staffed by Latin-American girls, is four blocks outside the City limits, and Mason criticized the sheriff's department for permitting its operation.

Was Investigator for Warren.

Mason had worked on The New York Times, The San Francisco Examiner, The Oakland Times, The Oakland Post-Enquirer, and the old San Francisco Call. He started his newspaper career in Minnesota.

He was investigator for Earl Warren, now Governor of California, while Warren was district attorney of Alameda County.

Later Mason was made public-relations director in Akron for the General Tire & Rubber Company.

He came to Alice from The San Antonio Light in 1947 and became managing editor of The Alice Echo. In December, 1948, he went to the radio station.

13c 1949

Whites by Negroes (Virginia)

Ex-Convict and Captor

13c W by N

MANHUNT'S END—Thomas Brown (left), 31, already under conviction for "assault to rape" and on parole from Atlanta, stands beside his captor, Trooper B. C. Nicodemus in Virginia State troopers' headquarters, five miles north of Culpeper, Va. Brown's capture yesterday ended a 21-hour manhunt. He is charged with the murder of James G. Brown, 24, Culpeper farmer, whose wife says she was raped after the slaying. The accused slayer was taken to an undisclosed jail for "safekeeping"

Washington Post
Washington D.C.
Wed-3-9-49

Ex-Convict, 31, Caught, Admits Farm Slaying

W by N
13c
Washington Post

Seized Near Culpeper, Man Is Whisked Away To Undisclosed Jail

Washington D.C.

By Richard L. Lyons
Post Reporter

Culpeper, Va., March 8.—After an all-night hunt in which he attacked a policeman and was tracked by bloodhounds, a 31-year-old mill hand was captured this morning and confessed to yesterday's murder of tenant farmer James G. Brown.

Wed-3-9-49

Thomas Brown, who recently served three years on a sex charge, was captured on the Southern Railway tracks near Remington, about 11 miles north of here, about 8 a. m. by State Trooper B. C. Nicodemus.

Three hours later, he had confessed the killing, had pleaded guilty to murder and was whisked away to an undisclosed jail. He said he didn't remember anything about the charge of the dead man's wife that he also raped her. No charge of rape had been placed against him tonight.

Find Revolver at Home

State and county police had been looking for Brown since yesterday afternoon, when they learned that he disappeared from his job. They also found a recently fired .32 caliber revolver at his home—the same caliber as that which killed the 23-year-old farmer.

A searching party of 10 State troopers and more county officials searched most of the night without success. But at 6 a. m., State police got a call that Brown had been seen in a store at Brandy, on Rt. No. 29, about 5 miles north of here.

Bloodhouds from a nearby State prison camp were put on the trail, but Nicodemus spotted Brown on the railroad tracks, walking north while the dogs were still more than a mile behind him.

(over)

Grabs for Officer's Gun

Brown gave the officer a false name and got into the automobile, handcuffed to Nicodemus, without a struggle. When Nicodemus started to drice away, however, the short, wiry Brown grabbed for his gun, the officer said. Nicodemus said he stopped the car, dragged Brown out and the two rolled over and over on the ground for several minutes before the big trooper could subdue him.

Wed-3-9-49

State Police Capt. R. C. Barham said Brown confessed the killing verbally, but would not sign a written statement.

Officials said the secrecy over Brown's present whereabouts was simply a "routine precaution." They added there had been no open threats of lynching, but they weren't taking any chances. The one sure thing was that he isn't in Culpeper County jail. It is undergoing alterations and has no tenants.

Farmer's Wife Identifies Him

Despite Brown's contention that he "didn't remember" raping Mrs. Brown, the 21-year-old mother of two identified him today as the man who had raped her outside her home about 2 a. m. after her husband was shot. The dead man worked at Willia mSmith's dairy, 3 miles east of Culpeper on Route No. 3, and about 70 miles southwest of Washington.

Brown's story of the killing differed from the account given by the dead man's wife in several details.

Thomas Brown, who lives a couple of miles east of the James Browns on the same road, said he was walking past his house on his way home when several dogs came out onto the road after him. Then, he said, a man came out onto the front porch.

Brown shot him, he said, because "I didn't know whether he had a gun or not." Barham said Brown admitted, however, that the porch light was on and no gun was visible.

According to police, Brown said he fired only one shot. Mrs. James Brown said three shots were fired and that her husband was shot before he got out of the front bedroom in their four-room house.

Police also say three shots were fired. One of them hit a bedstead and cut Mrs. Brown's head as it bounced off; another went into the bedroom wall, and the third lodged in Brown's body, piercing the heart. The gun found at Thomas Brown's house, had three empty shells in it, police said.

Although Mrs. Brown "positively" identified Thomas Brown for police, she still said she had not had a good look at his face when he raped her. She said she recognized him by his size, general appearance and the clothes he wore. Police said she had given them a very accurate account of Brown's attire before his capture.

Police said they are continuing their investigation of the rape complaint, but Commonwealth's Attorney R. A. Bickers indicated he might be content to proceed only with the murder charge now.

"A felony doesn't go out of date," he said, indicating that he could perhaps prosecute Brown on the rape charge later if the murder charge falls through.

The FBI reported here that Thomas Brown had been paroled from the Federal penitentiary at Atlanta last October after serving nearly three years for "assault to rape." He had been originally sentenced to 20 years by a court martial in England in 1944, the FBI said.

13c

The record shows, however, that Brown is feebleminded, that there was some question as to identification and the degree of force used in the case tried in England, the FBI said. After reviewing the case, the War Department reduced the sentence to 10 years. Brown became eligible for parole January 1948 and because of excellent behavior at Atlanta he was paroled nine months later.

Wed-3-9-49

Police said Brown told them he had dizzy spells, after which he remembered nothing. These blank intervals copped up several times in his story, police said, including when they asked him about raping Mrs. Brown.

Commonwealth's Attorney Bickers said he thought the grand jury would be convened in about two weeks to consider the murder indictment against Brown.

'Bama Police Hike Negro Death Tolls

Courier

13e Ala

12-3-49

BIRMINGHAM—Trigger-happy Alabama policemen are still having a field day with their favorite targets, Negro "suspects," as the fourteenth and fifteenth 1949 victims of police bullets were buried in Tuscaloosa and Montgomery, respectively.

The oft-repeated excuse of "resisting arrest" was used as a basis for both of the latest victims.

In Montgomery, 50-year-old Stephen Brown became the fifteenth corpse when he was shot, according to police, "resisting arrest" near the intersection of Cleveland Avenue and Troy Street, Thanksgiving Day.

COPS "SAW GUN"

Police officer J. L. Wilson, who applied the coup de grace in this instance stated that he and his partner, F. A. Knighten saw a gun protruding from Brown's belt as he sauntered down Cleveland Avenue.

Wilson said they stopped and motioned for Brown to hand them the gun. Instead, Wilson noted ,Brown pulled the trigger of his weapon three times but the gun failed to fire. Wilson said he then shot Brown in the left chest.

In Tuscaloosa, Officer George
ined all over the world."

Miss Dunham told The Courier that she had never even met Aly Khan, although she understood that he had been to see her show, "Les Ballets de Katherine Dunham," several times at the Theatre de Paris. Gracious and smiling, the famous dance star said that if the story were true she would not admit it, but added that it was not true. She emphasized the fact that she was not in the habit of going around with the husbands of other women. She admitted having heard about the Parsons' story.

Civil Rights Case Ends In Mistrial

13e Ala Wed. 11-2-49

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Nov. 2—(AP)—A mistrial was declared in Federal Court today in the government's civil liberties case against two former Montgomery policemen charged with beating a white man they had arrested.

Members of the jury asked U. S. District Judge C. B. Kennamer to dismiss them after deliberating eight hours. They said they couldn't agree on a verdict.

The jury spent nearly six hours yesterday trying to decide on the fate of Winkler Campbell and William Durden, the ex-policemen accused of beating Paul Patrick, of Montgomery, after arresting him last December.

Recessing overnight, the jurors returned this morning and tried for two hours more before asked to be dismissed.

Man Holds Off Police, Fires Aparment, Kills Stepdaughter And Self

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 2—(AP)—A San Francisco man set fire to an apartment and held police at bay for 15 minutes today while he killed his 14-year-old stepdaughter and himself, police reported.

The man was Bruce Harold Brennan, 35, a marine refrigeration engineer. He was at liberty on bail, pending a Superior Court trial on a morals charge involving the girl, Constance Oliver.

Police said that Aug. 4 Mrs. Betty Brennan, 35, had her husband arrested on the morals charge.

Police and firemen finally made their way into Mrs. Brennan's blazing third-floor apartment while she stood outside screaming in terror.

They found Brennan and the pretty girl dead, their throats cut with a curved, 13-inch Oriental knife.

Officers said Brennan served a five-year prison sentence after a rape conviction in Sioux Falls, S. D., in 1938.

Conecuh Negro Wins Acquittal In Stacy Death

Advertiser Mon. 11-7-49

All-White Jury Gave Verdict Sunday; Dead Man Was White

13e Ala

Special to The Advertiser

GREENVILLE, ALA., Nov. 6—James Anderson, a 24-year-old Conecuh County Negro, was acquitted today by an all-white jury of killing a white man.

Anderson was accused of slaying Sam Stacy (Monroe county planter and cattle raiser) in a fight at a Butler County gin.

Donnie Anderson, 46-year-old father of James, also is under indictment for murder in Stacy's death. Donnie will be tried later.

The jury returned its verdict at 9 a.m. Sunday, Circuit Judge A. E. Gamble having advised it at 8:30 p.m., Saturday to hold up any verdict reached during the night.

Montgomery Ala.

Defense counsel, led by Roderick Beddow, of Birmingham, insisted Stacy died of a heart attack and not of injuries suffered in the fight. The state insisted blows caused his death.

Disagreed On Taunting

An argument between the Andersons and Sam and Herman Stacy, white brothers, developed at the gin after the Negroes' truck passed the Stacy's enroute. Herman Stacy testified the Negroes taunted them. The Andersons insisted it was the other way around.

James testified he was asleep in the Anderson truck when he awoke to find his father and the Stacys arguing. Herman, the Negro said, knocked his father down and dodged a blow he (James) struck with a piece of lumber.

Sam, the Negro testified, struck him with a tire tool before he ran. Anderson insisted he did not strike a blow with a tree limb with several nails driven in it.

Testimony Of Death

Herman Stacy testified the younger Anderson Negro struck at him several times with the limb, and that Donnie threw a rock at Sam Stacy, who collapsed and died.

Ex-Policemen To Face Trial Second Time

Advertiser

Mistrial Is Declared; Another Civil Rights Hearing Slated Today

By FOSTER HALEY

Two husky ex-policemen today still face federal prosecution on charges of beating a 31-year-old gas-fitter while under police control.

U. S. District Judge C. B. Kennamer yesterday declared a mistrial after 12 dogged jurors disagreed to the end.

13e Ala Thurs. 11-3-49

Twenty-three hours after the fate of William D. Durden and Winkler Campbell was entrusted to them, the grim-faced jurors lined up in front of Judge Kennamer and reported: "We can't reach a verdict."

They retired at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday and returned for the last time at 10:30 a.m. yesterday.

Another Trial

The government said promptly that the bitterly-fought civil rights case would be brought to trial again.

Montgomery Ala.

Durden and Campbell were indicted by a federal grand jury recently for battering Paul A. Patrick of 300 Rhodes Street with their "hands, a stick, and a brick." Twenty-two stitches were taken about Patrick's ear, mouth, and head.

Another interest-stirring civil rights case comes up in the same court today. Cecil Orris Thrash, a Tallassee policeman, goes on trial on charges of killing a Negro while arresting him.

When Jury Foreman Charles R. Dudley, of Seale, Ala., announced a hopeless deadlock yesterday, gray-headed Judge Kennamer said calmly: "I'm very sorry gentlemen; but these things happen in the administration of the law." He then declared a mistrial.

As the jurors filed out of the courtroom to get paid for their three-day stint, Campbell's attorney, L. H. Walden, walked over to federal prosecutor Ben Brooks and shook hands.

"Are you (the government) going to try again?" Walden asked.

"We sure as hell are, brother," asserted suave, soft-talking Brooks.

Although the all-white jury was out for almost 24 hours, they actually deliberated for only seven hours and 10 minutes.

They apparently tried until the last minute to arrive at a verdict.

Advertiser

Shortly before announcing the stalemate, the stubborn crew marched out to ask Judge Kennamer some written questions.

Thurs. 11-3-49

"When is a man considered under arrest?" they asked.

"When a hand is placed on him and he is told he's under arrest," replied the judge (in substance).

"Can a private citizen arrest a man believed to have committed a crime?"

13e Ala

"He can," replied the judge. (This identical point had been brought out time and again during the turbulent trial.)

"If a man breaks away and runs, is he resisting arrest?"

"I think not," said the judge. "That would be fleeing from arrest."

Take Exception

Defense Attorney Dick Rives and Bob Coburn (both representing Durden only) took exception to the judge's two latter statements.

Kennamer granted the exceptions (allowed the defense attorneys to go on record as believing the judge in error), but did not change his charge to the jury.

A confessed beater of five Negroes (to make them admit a crime) will be sentenced in court tomorrow. He is Thomas I. Gantt, one-time police chief of Florala, Ala.

Two other cases against Gantt were dropped when he admitted to Judge Kennamer last Saturday that he beat the Negroes with a hose or similar instrument.

While the Durden-Campbell jury was out earlier, Rives complained to Judge Kennamer in a private conversation that the jurors were reading about the trial in the newspapers.

"Four of them came back from lunch with a paper tucked under their arm," Rives said.

"I don't know any way we can keep this out of the papers," Kennamer answered.

Matter Dropped

"You're right," said Rives, and the matter was dropped.

Only a scattering of persons attended the hotly-fought court battle that was carried out in the beautiful district courtroom on the second floor of the Montgomery postoffice building.

Co-prosecutor with Ben Brooks was Assistant District Attorney Hartwell Davis.

Brooks is a special FBI attorney sent down from Washington at the request of Davis to assist with the current civil rights cases.

Davis was careful to point out at the outset of the trial that Brooks is a native of Dallas, Texas, and a Southerner.

All Excused

Four Negroes were originally placed in the jury box to serve on the Burden-Campbell case, but all were challenged (excused) by the defense.

None of the eventual jurors were Montgomerians.

They were:

Donald B. Hammond, a railroad clerk of Dothan; Steve Gilliland, Jr., returned soldier, Goodwater; George F. Dickerson, salesman, Dothan.

R. E. Jordan, farmer, Eclectic; R. H. Goldsmith, merchant and farmer, White Hall; Gerald Brantley, farmer, Banks.

Wade H. Griffin, wholesale merchant, Dothan; J. Roy Ballard, farmer, Alexander City; Edward Parker, farmer, Booth.

Herbert W. Espy, wholesale grocer, Abbeville; A. C. Bratton, merchant, Jemison, and Foreman Charles R. Dudley, farmer, Seale.

Federal Jury Frees Thrash In 22 Minutes

Advertiser Sat. 11-5-49

Tallassee Policeman Claims He Shot Negro To Defend Himself

Montgomery Ala.

A Federal District Court jury deliberated just 22 minutes yesterday before deciding that Amos Starr, Negro, was not deprived of "due process of law" when fatally shot by a Tallassee policeman.

The officer on trial under an indictment for the civil rights violation was Cecil Orris Thrash. He admitted shooting the Negro, Oct. 25, 1947, but claimed self-defense.

13e Ala

Dr. C. J. Rehling state toxicologist, testified Thursday that Starr was shot in the back.

Maximum possible sentence would have been one year in jail, a $1,000 fine, either or both.

Thrash was attempting to arrest the Negro on a misdemeanor charge. Lawyers for the defendant admitted that the officer would not have been justified in killing the Negro for resisting arrest for a misdemeanor.

Threat Cited

They maintained, however, that after a chase the Negro turned on the officer with a rock in his hand. That constituted a threat and Thrash was justified in protecting himself, defense attorneys contended.

Hartwell Davis, assistant district attorney, called the pursuit of the Negro "a big game hunt" by "trigger-happy men."

Prosecutor Ben Brooks, a special assistant from the attorney general's office in Washington, appealed to the jury in his closing argument to "make an example" out of the Tallassee officer. Otherwise, he warned, "there will be a lot more cases like this in Alabama."

He also expressed confidence that the jurors wouldn't let "racial prejudice" influence their decisions.

Thrash's attorneys, insisting it was a case of self-defense, pointed out that the Negro was six feet three inches tall, weighed 225 pounds and was powerfully built. It was "only natural" for the officer to use a weapon, they argued.

One defense lawyer, W. C. Woodall, of Tallassee, described Starr as "bloodthirsty and ready for a fight on the least provocation."

Advertiser

Sentence Today

A third civil liberties case will be concluded today when U. S. District Judge C. B. Kennamer sentences Thomas I. Gantt, former police chief at Florala, Ala.

Sat. 11-5-49

Gantt pleaded guilty last week to charges of beating five Negroes to make them confess a crime. Two other indictments against Gantt, accusing him of forcing a Negro to work out a debt and kidnaping other Negroes in Florida, were dismissed.

Ala

Policeman Is Freed In Slaying of Negro

Post. Dat. 11-5-49

Montgomery, Ala., Nov. 4 (AP).—An all-white Federal Court jury deliberated only 30 minutes today before acquitting a policeman charged with a civil liberties violation in the killing of a Negro.

Officer Orris Thrash of Tallassee, Ala., was tried for slaying Amos Starr in October, 1947. The policeman testified earlier in the day he shot the Negro in self-defense while trying to arrest him for a liquor violation.

Thrash told the jury the Negro was behind a road-building machine when he caught up with him after a chase. He said Starr advanced toward him menacingly.

"He threw a rock at me," the policeman testified. "I said 'Stop. Don't come any farther.' He reached down to pick up another rock and I shot three times. He had a knife in his hand. He kept advancing and I kept shooting."

13e Ala

EX-OFFICER ADMITS HE BEAT 5 NEGROES

Ny. Times

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Oct. 31 (AP)—Former Police Chief Thomas I. Gantt of Florala, Ala., pleaded guilty today to a Federal indictment charging that he beat five Negroes to make them confess to a criminal offense.

United States District Judge C. B. Kennamer said he would sentence Gantt later this week.

Two other indictments against Gantt charging violation of civil rights of four other Negroes have been dismissed, District Attorney Hartwell Davis said.

Gantt was charged with beating the five Negroes with a rubber hose or a similar instrument.

13e Ala

Tues. 11-1-49

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Oct. 31 (AP)—Trials of three men accused of masked mob terrorism were set today for hearing Dec. 5 as Alabama officials went ahead with plans to bring all of the eighteen men arrested on such charges before the courts.

Set for Dec. 5 were indictments for flogging while masked against the Rev. R. C. Lyons, itinerant Grayesville, Ala., minister; Richard Lollar, identified by state officials as Cyclops of the Adamsville, Ala, Ku Klux Klan, and A. B. Carradine.

Conviction of flogging while masked carries a penalty of one to ten years imprisonment.

Coleman A. (Brownie) Lollar, brother of Richard Lollar, was acquitted of charges of flogging while masked last week. He still faces similar charges in four other cases.

Police Board Suspends Two For 'Brutality'

Montgomery Advertiser
Montgomery Ala.

13e

Durden And Campbell Accused Of Beating Paul Patrick Dec. 21

Thursday 1-6-49

Ala.

Two Montgomery policemen were suspended yesterday by a five-man police trial board which charged "that they brutally beat a man after they had arrested him and handcuffed him to a tree," Chief of Police Carlisle Johnstone said last night.

The decision was unanimous and put into effect immediately. Chief Johnstone said the action was taken pending a decision to be made by the City Commission Friday at 11 a.m.

Johnstone identified the two policemen as W. D. Durden, 112 Summit Street, and Winkler Campbell, 123 Third West, Oak Park, and the arrested man as Paul A. Patrick, 28, 300 Rhodes Street.

Durden has been with the police force since 1937 and Campbell since 1941, with the exception of a former discharge for a similar offense, Johnstone said.

The five man board consists of the heads of the various departments, Assistant Chief G. J. Ruppenthal, D. W. Keener, J. L. Miller, J. B. Rucker, and Marvin Stanley.

Johnstone said that the recommendation to suspend the men was in Mayor John L. Goodwyn's hands. The Mayor said he had granted a request by the two officers for a hearing Friday.

The recommendation for suspending the two men states that Patrolmen Durden and Campbell "did use unnecessary as well as brutal force in the case of Patrick," and that they should be suspended. Chief Johnstone approved the recommendation.

On December 21

The incident occurred the night of December 21, at the corner of Forest Avenue and Lake Street. Patrick testified before the board that Durden and Campbell arrested him, handcuffed him to a tree and that Campbell beat him with a blackjack and Durden with his fists.

Durden and Campbell admitted to the board that this was true. At the time Durden was not in uniform. His working hours are from 6:45 until 2:45. The incident happened about 7:30 p.m.

Durden charged that Patrick had broken into his house and had taken his wallet containing $180. At Recorder's Court hearing the next day, Patrick was bound over to grand jury under a $500 bond, after Durden and Campbell testified against him.

Chief of Detectives Miller said investigation into the case was first made when Patrick's father made a complaint that the charge was false, and that his son had been cruelly beaten.

Officer W. C. Evans, Campbell's partner, told Chief Miller that he had reason to believe Durden had planted the charge against Patrick in order to clear himself for beating him and that he would "not see an innocent man go to the penitentiary."

Thurs 1-6-49

Evans told the board that Durden had asked him to "witness that he had found the billfold on the ground in front of the house where Patrick had dropped it during a chase and that he (Evans) saw Durden throw the billboard to the ground just before he called him to the scene.'

Discredit To The South

Birmingham News
Wed 1-12-49
Birmingham Ala.

13e Ala.

To the Editor:

Permit me to compliment you on your objectively written editorial relating to the frequency of the shooting of Negro criminals by the Police Department of Birmingham. I, too, had wondered if officers were addicted, unnecessarily, to violence in these instances.

I am a firm advocate of liberty and justice for all and I deplore actions which may tend to indicate any violation of these principles. It also occurs to me that actions of this kind may tend to bring discredit to the prestige of the law enforcement agencies of the South.

Perhaps the chief of police would do well to urge his officers to practice greater discretion in the future.

J. B. TREACY.
Box 782, University, Ala.

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2 Policemen Fired By City For Brutality

Montgomery Advertiser
Montgomery Ala.

13e

Fellow Officer Asserts Patrick Was Beaten Following His Arrest

Sat 1-8-49

Ala.

By W. O. SMITH, JR.

Two Montgomery policemen were discharged yesterday by the city commission for "brutally beating a man after he had been arrested and handcuffed to a tree."

The officers are W. D. Durden, 112 Summitt Street, and Winkler Campbell, 123 Third West, Oak Park. The special hearing was held at the request of the two officers.

The commission's vote was unanimous. The motion was made by Mayor Goodwyn and seconded by Commissioner W. A. Gayle.

Durden charged that Paul A. Patrick, 30, had entered his home and taken a billfold containing $180 on Dec. 21. Policemen Campbell and W. D. Evans were called to investigate the case.

Patrick was captured on the corner of Forest Avenue and Lake Street following a chase of several blocks.

'Framing' Charged

Evans charged that "Durden framed Patrick on the billfold charge and that Campbell and Durden beat Patrick with a slapjack, a brick and their fists."

"After capturing Patrick both men beat him and then handcuffed him to a tree," Evans testified. "Durden then proceeded to beat him with his fist and Campbell hit him with a brick. After he was unhandcuffed and was being taken to the patrol car both men again knocked him down. Both men beat him in the car while we were carrying him to headquarters."

Evans told Detectives Chief J. L. Miller that he had reason to believe Durden had planted the billfold charge against Patrick in order to clear himself for beating him and that he would "not see an innocent man go to the penitentiary."

Sat 1-8-49

Evans said that Durden had asked him to "witness that he had found the billfold on the ground in front of the house where Patrick had dropped it during a chase and that he (Evans) saw Durden throw the billfold to the ground just before he called him to the scene."

Durden and Campbell admitted beating the man immediately after capturing him but denied the other charges.

Durden said that he hit Patrick "a very severe lick" when he arrived on the scene after two civilians had captured the man. "He was trying to get up so I hit him with my fist," Durden said. "He then got up, kicked me on the shins and hit me on the right arm, so I picked up a nearby stick and hit him with it."

Durden said he had his hand x-rayed the next day because he thought the blow he gave Patrick had either fractured or broken it.

Campbell said when he arrived on the scene, a few minutes after Durden, Patrick attacked him. "I hit him with my slap-jack in self-defense," he said. "But at no other time did I hit the man."

They said the reason they handcuffed Patrick to the tree was that "they were tired of tusseling with him."

13e

Patrick testified that the two men beat him after arrest, while he was handcuffed and while he was in the patrol car.

Sat 1-8-49

Dr. Charles R. Lafferty, city physician who treated Patrick, said that he suffered multiple abrasions of the left ear, upper lip, over the right eye and scalp; had superficial abrasions of the forehead and cheeks, and that his ear was torn loose about three inches on the anterior side. The doctor estimated the wounds required 20 stitches.

At a recorder's court hearing recently Patrick was bound over to the grand jury under a $500 bond, after Durden testified against him.

The hearing yesterday resulted from an investigation by a police trial board, which charged that Durden and Campbell used "unnecessary as well as brutal force," and recommended that they be suspended.

Judge Clears Negro Pastor Of Misconduct

Montgomery Advertiser
Montgomery Ala

Police brutality

Not Enough Evidence To Make Case, Says Scott

13e

City Judge John B. Scott freed the Rev. S. S. Seay, Negro pastor of Mt. Zion Church, yesterday of charges of disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

"I do not think there is enough evidence here to make a case," Scott said after hearing the testimony of Patrolman J. S. Yarbrough, one of the arresting officers. No other witnesses were called.

Wed 5-11-49

Defendant Not Called

Seay previously claimed he was hit by one of the arresting officers after a light was flashed in his face. He was not called yesterday.

Officers accused Seay of using profanity and denied he was struck. Seay denied using profanity.

Patrolmen Yarbrough and W. H. Rushing were looking for a "dark, heavy-set Negro" wanted by Pike (Troy) County officials when they spotted Seay near the Negro YMCA. They flashed a light in his face and stopped him for questioning.

'It's Not Unnatural . . .'

Yarbrough said he was searching Seay from the rear when the minister whirled about. It is at this time that Seay claims he was hit. He was taken to jail and later released on $100 bail.

In dismissing the case, Judge Scott said:

"This isn't the most aggravated crime in the world. It's not unnatural for an officer to shine a light on a man's face. And it's not unnatural for a man under these circumstances to say 'get the light out of my eyes,' or even say 'get the damned light out of my eyes.'"

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3 DEFENDANTS CLEARED OF CHARGES BY NEGRO

13e

Briefs Ordered Filed In Case Of West Memphians

Commercial Appeal
Memphis Tenn.
Tues 4-19-49

JONESBORO, Ark., April 18.—(AP)—Three defendants in a suit brought by a Memphis Negro, who claimed he was "brutally beaten" by West Memphis, Ark. police, were dismissed Monday "without prejudice."

Federal Judge Thomas C. Trimble signed an order excusing Crittenden County Sheriff Cecil V. Goodwin, the municipality of West Memphis and the Fidelity & Casualty Co. of New York.

Jack Bunn Jr., who filed the suit seeking $100,000 damages, said he was injured permanently last January 2, when he was taken to a lonely spot and beaten. Bunn later was convicted of drunkenness and disorderly conduct.

The remaining defendants are West Memphis Patrolmen T. J. Johnson and Charlie Burrow and Police Chief H. D. (Bud) Holland.

Both sides were instructed to file briefs so that Judge Trimble may determine whether the case will be heard in the May term of court.

Detective, 4 Negroes Injured In Shooting

Advertiser

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., July 28—(AP)—Five persons were injured today—three with bullet wounds—when city detectives tried to search a Negro home here.

Detective T. E. (Joe) Lindsey suffered head injuries. His condition was not determined immediately.

Fri 7-29-49

Three Negro brothers and their mother were injured. They were listed as Walter Dandridge, 32; John Dandridge, 44; James Dandridge, 24, and Susie Dandridge, 60. All were taken to a local hospital.

Montgomery

Walter suffered a bullet wound in the abdomen. John was shot in the right thigh and Susie was shot in the left leg. James suffered head lacerations.

City Detective J. R. Norrell gave this account:

Detectives Lindsey and J. R. Davis, went to the Negroes' home with a search warrant. While they were searching the house, Lindsey was attacked with a poker and the shooting followed.

Negro Convict Shot By Guard Dies

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Aug. 5—(AP)—A Negro convict shot by a Draper Prison guard Tuesday after attacking him with a shovel died yesterday, Prison Director Frank Boswell disclosed today. He identified the Negro as Eddie Roberson, 39, who was serving a 50-year sentence from Perry County for murder.

13e

HELD IN SLAYING—John Ollie Tate.

Ensley Officer Is Arrested In Death Of Negro

Denies Knowledge Of Shooting; Pointed Out As Man At Scene

Birmingham, Ala.

A Birmingham policeman was jailed today on charge of murder in the pistol slaying Thursday afternoon of a 39-year-old Negro.

News

Police Officer John O. Tate, of the Ensley precinct station, was in City Jail today charged with shooting to death Tilton Young Pennington, of 212 Fifth Court, West an employe of Swift & Co.

The policeman, who was off duty Thursday afternoon when the Negro was killed, denied any knowledge of the shooting.

Sat. 9-3-49

PENNINGTON WAS SHOT about 5:45 p.m. Thursday in an alley near 923 17th Place, North. Three shots entered his chest.

13e

The Negro was at the home of Thomas and Elizabeth Larkin on 17th Place Thursday afternoon, police were told, when a white man entered the back door.

Ala

The Larkins told police Pennington ran out the front door when the white man entered and that the latter gave chase.

The pursuer, the Negroes told officers, stopped in the alley.

The Larkins said they heard the white man yell out: "Stop. Don't come up on me."

Then they heard three pistol shots, they said.

The white man, clad in overalls and straw hat, fled in an automobile.

Detectives said Officer Tate was arrested after tracing the license numbers. They said four persons identified him.

Police Chief Floyd Eddins said he had immediately suspended Tate and that a warrant charging murder was sworn out. He said the policeman would be transferred to the County Jail.

Investigating the shooting were Chief Eddins, Assistant Chief E. H. (Skinny) Brown, Detective Capt. C. O. Pearce, Homicide Detectives J. R. Norrell and G. V. Evans and Coroner Joe Hildebrand.

Tate worked on the desk at the Ensley precinct station from 3 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Draper Guard Upheld By Boswell In Fatal Shooting Of Convict

Advertiser

Death of a Negro convict, who was shot after he attacked a Draper prison guard, has been declared justifiable homicide. Prison Director Frank Boswell said today.

Sat. 8-6-49

The Negro, Eddie Roberson, 39, was shot twice by Guard Cashe Rabb, Boswell said, after Rabb tried to stop a fight between Roberson and another Negro last Tuesday.

Montgomery

Draper Warden B. R. Reeves' report quoted Elmore County Sheriff Lester Holley as saying it was a case of justifiable homicide.

13e Ala

Rabb, according to the report, shot his pistol into the ground in front of the Negro when he advanced on him swinging a shovel.

When he refused to halt, the report said Rabb shot Roberson first in the leg and then in the hip as he continued to move toward him.

Roberson, who was serving a 50-year murder sentence from Perry County, died Wednesday.

Wounded Negro Back In Prison

Advertiser

Sat. 8-6-49

MOBILE, ALA., Aug. 5—(AP)—A 29-year-old Negro who was shot by a Mobile officer after escaping from Atmore State Prison farm was returned to prison today.

Montgomery

The Negro, James E. Williams, was wounded by Detective Ralph Jordan several weeks ago as he sought to escape from officers in swamps north of Mobile.

Williams escaped from Atmore while serving 40 years from Mobile County on burglary charges.

Gun Wounds Fatal To Birmingham Negro

Advertiser

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., July 29—(AP)—A 32-year-old Negro man who was shot yesterday by city detectives investigating lottery law violations, died today in a Birmingham hospital.

Sat. 7-30-49

The Negro, Walter Dandridge, his brothers, John, 44, and James, 24, his mother, Susie, 60, and City Detective T. E. Lindsey were injured in a scuffle and shooting melee at the Dandridge home.

Detective Lindsey was back on duty today after treatment for a cut on the head. Capt. Charles L. Pierce said the wound was inflicted when one of the Negroes hit the detective with a poker.

Gun Wound Fatal

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Sept. 15—(AP)—The death of a Negro woman who was involved in a fight with police on a lottery raid was reported today by Coroner Joe L. Hilderbrand. One of her sons was killed in the fight.

Advertiser

Fri. 9-16-49

She was listed as Susie Dandridge, 60. The coroner said she died Monday but he didn't learn of the death until a funeral home applied for a burial permit.

Montgomery

The woman was shot in the leg July 28 when she and her three sons fought City Detectives T. E. Lindsey and J. R. Davis, Police Chief Floyd Eddins said.

U. S. Grand Jury Holds 4 Whites

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Three former police officers and a fourth still in uniform were indicted here last Friday by a Federal grand jury on charges of violating the civil rights of 10 colored persons and [illegible]

The jury [illegible] that the men must face trial contained two colored jurors.

One of the indicted men, Thomas L. Gantt, former chief of police at Florida, was accused of civil rights violations in three separate counts.

Gantt faces one charge on the grounds that he forced Willie Billups, a colored sharecropper, to work out what he contended to be a debt Billups owed him.

The ex-police chief was indicted on two counts on charges of hitting five colored men with a rubber hose or a similar instrument in August, 1947, while attempting to make them confess to a criminal offense.

Cecil O. Trash, a Tallahassee policeman, was indicted for shooting to death Amos Starr, while attempting to arrest him on suspicion of having committed a misdemeanor.

Two former Montgomery policemen, W. D. Durden, and Winkler

Policeman Is Freed By Federal Jury In Negro's Slaying

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Nov. 5—(AP)—An all-white Federal Court jury deliberated only 30 minutes to-Sunday before acquitting a policeman charged with civil liberties violation in the killing of a Negro.

Officer Orris Thrash, of Tallassee, was tried for the slaying of Amos Starr in October, 1947. The policeman testified earlier in the day that he shot the Negro in self-defense while trying to arrest him for liquor law violation.

13e

Thrash told the jury of 12 men the Negro was behind a road-building machine when he caught up with him after a chase. He said Starr advanced toward him menacingly.

Ala

* * *

"HE THREW A ROCK AT ME," the policeman testified. "I said 'Stop. Don't come any further.' He reached down to pick up another rock and I shot three times. He had a knife in his hand. He kept advancing and I kept shooting."

Sat. 11-5-49

The government contends the Negro was shot in the back.

Defense Attys. W. C. Woodall, of Tallassee, and Richard T. Rives, of Montgomery, pointed out that Starr was six feet three inches tall, weighed 225 pounds and was powerfully built. They argued it was "only natural" for Thrash to use a weapon to defend himself.

Birmingham

Ben Brooks, a special assistant from the attorney general's office in Washington, urged the jury on the other hand to "make an example" out of the Tallassee policeman and warned if they didn't "there will be a lot more cases like this in Alabama."

Pickup—

In another civil rights case, a former Florala, Ala., police chief's sentence was postponed until Saturday by Judge C. B. Kennamer. The ex-officer, Thomas I. Gantt, recently pleaded guilty to charges of beating some Negroes to force them to confess a crime. He was originally scheduled to be sentenced tomorrow.

Ex-Chief Of Police Gets 2-Year Term

Advertiser

Sun. 11-6-49

U. S. District Judge C. B. Kennamer sentenced a former Alabama police chief to two years imprisonment and fined him $200 yesterday for beating five Negroes.

13e

Thomas I. Gantt, of Florala, Ala., pleaded guilty last week to charges he beat the Negroes to make them confess to a crime.

Ala

Kennamer released Gantt under $2,000 bond with instructions to report back Nov. 30 to begin the sentence. This was to give him time to arrange his private affairs.

Montgomery

Gantt was named in two other indictments returned Sept. 16 by a federal grand jury. One charged that he forced a Negro to work out a debt, the other that he kidnaped three other Negroes in Florida.

Charges in the last two indictments were dropped after Gantt entered his guilty plea in the first one.

The ex-police chief was accused of hitting the five Negroes with a rubber hose or a similar instrument to force a confession.

The victims were identified as Robert Lee Devaughn, Johnny Fuller, James W. Fuller, O'Neal Vickers, and James Louis Williams.

Policemen Freed By White Jury For Slaying Negro

Courier-Journal

Sat. 11-5-49

Louisville, Ky.

Montgomery, Ala., Nov. 4 (AP)—A policeman charged with the "civil-rights" slaying of a Negro was acquitted today by a Federal Court jury which ignored a prosecution appeal to "make an example" out of him.

The jury of 12 white men freed Orris Thrash, Tallassee, Ala., after deliberating only 30 minutes. Thrash was charged with killing Amos Starr in violation of his civil rights.

13e Ala

The policeman admitted on the witness stand this morning that he killed Starr, but said he did it only after the Negro threatened him. He said he was trying to arrest Starr for liquor-law violation when the slaying took place in October, 1947.

Government attorneys contended Thrash killed the Negro needlessly and that he shot him in the back.

Alabama Police Kill 15th Negro Victim Of Year

13e Ala

Memphis, Tenn.

MONTGOMERY, Ala.— (SNS)—A fifty year old man here, on last Thursday night, November 24 became the 15th Negro in Alabama to be allegedly killed by a police officer.

World

Fri. 12-2-49

Police officer J. L. Wilson, according to coroner's finding, was justified in the midnight slaying of Stephen Brown, 50 of 1003 Cleveland Ave. The incident occurred at the intersection of Cleveland Ave., and Troy Street. The victim was shot in the chest.

Officer Wilson and his partner, ceman T. R. Knighten, said as they patrolled, Brown was spotted walking the street with a gun sticking out of his belt. Officer Wilson said that they stopped and motioned to Brown to hand them the gun. Instead, Wilson added, Brown snapped his gun at them three times as it failed to go off. The victim, the officer said, then was shot in the left chest.

12-2-49

Ark. State Trooper Sued By Race Farmer For $50,000

Memphis, Tenn. World

13e ark

A 53-year-old farmer of the Vaverly Community on Hulbert ?oad, 12 miles southeast of West Memphis, filed a $50,000 civil liber- ies damage suit in Federal Court t Jonesboro against State Trooper Marion Thomas Tuesday. In the uit Fennie Franklin, well known nd respected by white and colored itizens of the community, charged hat he was seriously injured and is civil rights violated by the pa- rolman who arrested him about 0:30 p. m. Saturday night, August 7.

Tri. 9-23-49

Mr. Franklin's attorney, Harold Flowers says that he intends to ress for a thorough F. B. I. inves- igation of this and other beatings Negroes have received by Officers n Eastern Arkansas. He says that xamination of his client by a Mem- his Physician reveals that Mr. Franklin suffers serious and pos- ible permanent internal injuries as result of being kicked in the groin everal times by the Patrolman, Mr. Franklin still has visible wounds in is skull as a result of the black- ck blows.

The beating of Franklin occurred ust off Broadway on Eighth Street West Memphis and was witness- d by more than a dozen witness, ll Negroes. They claim that Officers Thomas and Lowman walked up and struck Franklin with a blackjack after hearing him say," Mr. Bud and the city officers are the law on Eighth Street."

Franklin says that the officers hit him with the blackjack three times ing him in the stomach and groin. ing him in the stomach and firoin. He was taken to West Memphis City jail where the jailer told him that he would release him because he knew him but the troopers had made the arrest.

He was later released without posting Bond, a City Councilman, Oliver Bollinger, standing for his appearance. Charged with public drunkenness and resisting arrest, Franklin has seen his case postponed three times from West Memphis Municipal Court because Officer Lowman, one of the arresting officers, was reported to be attending a special police school. However, at the trial last week, Franklin was fined the minimum amount by the Judge because of the outstanding citizens who spoke in his behalf.

The same night of the Franklin incident Trooper Bill Gordon was shot on the Highway 70 viaduct between Memphis and West Memphis and as a result is a patient in Kennedy Hospital-a paraplegic. According to the story told by Gordon he stopped a car bound for Memphis and occupied by Cliff Wortham of Dayton, Ohio and his nephew, Will Authes Price of Memphis. Wortham got out of the car for questioning by Gordon and as he did so the car started to roll down the hill.

Gordon claims that he jumped in the car as he did so Price shot at him five or six times. Price is then alleged to have attacked Gordon's fellow Officer, Deputy Sheriff George Powers, kicking him on the leg and then attempting to escape by jumping off the 75 foot viaduct.

13e

Memphis World

Price was sent to Little Rock Hospital in critical condition while Wortham was jailed in Marion, Ark. for drunken driving, reckless driving, and being an accessory before the fact. His trial has been postponed until Oct. 4.

Tri. 9-23-49

Rumors are rampant in Wst Memphis and many residents of the community say they think that Price must have witnessed the earlier beating of Franklin and fired on the officer because he though that the officer was going to attempt to give him the same treatment.

Investigation was begun immediately after the shooting by representatives of the West Memphis News, and its Managing Editor, J. C. Coughlin, has come out with a strong editorial showing the difference in the stories told by the Officers and the facts that have been proven.

Man Who Lost Eye During His Arrest Sues

Argus

St. Louis, Mo.

JONESBORO, Ark., Oct. 10.—Jack Bunn, Jr., who lost the sight of one eye and suffered brain injuries while under arrest by two West Memphis patrolmen Jan. 1, 1949, filed a $50,000 damage suit in the U. S. district court here Monday.

10-14-49

In his petition he charges that Thomas J. Johnson and Charles Burrow, who has since died, wrongfully beat and brutally attacked him.

13e

The complaint also charges the two officers with denying the plaintiff medical attention, counsel, bail and the right to testify in court.

Ark.

It sets forth that he was seriously, severely and permanently injured at the time of arrest.

Bunn was arrested, fined and sentenced to jail for being "drunk and disorderly".

—Civil Rights For All—

Ark. Hy. Patrolman Sued For $30,000

Memphis, Tenn. World

A $30,000 damage suit, resulting from charges of Feenie Franklin of West Memphis that he was beaten by an Arkansas Highway Patrolman last August, has been filed at the Jonesboro division of Federal Court.

Tri. 10-7-49

Harold Flowers, Pine Bluff Attorney, representing Franklin, has filed the suit against the Standard Accident Insurance Company, surety company for Patrolman Marion Thomas.

13e Ark.

The bill sues for $10,000 on each of three charges: (1) It charges that Thomas on the night of August 27 attacked Franklin without cause, struck him on the back of the head many times with a black jack, knocked him down and kicked him in the head and groin. (2) It charges that Thomas arrested Franklin without cause and had him imprisoned falsely (3) It charges malicious prosecution of Franklin by Thomas.

While Thomas is the actual defendant, the suit names the surety company. The Standard Accident Insurance Company is incorporated in Michigan and while Thomas could not be sued in Federal Court, his surety company could be.